

NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Truce in French port blockade

Tourists stranded in France by the fishermen's blockade of the Channel ports crammed into Cherbourg where the barrage was lifted for 24 hours to 11 am today. Ferries were being diverted to the port as cars queued three abreast on entrance roads.

The fishermen also lifted their blockade of Corsica, but elsewhere the dispute worsened, with half of France's fishing ports impassable. Forty ships waited outside Le Havre, and a further 30 were trapped inside.

Hovercraft services to and from Boulogne and Calais are still unaffected, and bottlenecks at Belgian ports have eased.

Back Page

62 die in crash

At least 62 people were killed and another 50 injured when a goods train collided head-on with a crowded passenger train near Torun in central Poland. Polish leaders flew to the scene of the crash.

Israeli raid

Israeli soldiers claim they killed between 40 and 50 Palestinian guerrillas in a raid on four targets in southern Lebanon's Arnoun Plateau. Three Israelis died. Page 3

Threat to Times

Journalists on The Times will decide today whether to strike following a management decision not to pay them a recent arbitration award averaging 21 per cent.

Reagan warned

U.S. Presidential candidate Ronald Reagan has been warned by China that any attempt to restore links with Taiwan could damage relations between Washington and Peking. Page 3

Mid-East flights

British Caledonian wants to operate four flights a week between Gatwick and the Middle East as part of its new service to Hong Kong, the airline told a Civil Aviation Authority hearing. Page 6

Post Office head

Sir Henry Chilver, Vice-Chancellor of Cranfield Institute of Technology, will become temporary chairman of the Post Office when Sir William Barlow leaves next month. Back Page

TUC invitation

An expected invitation to Leader of the Opposition James Callaghan to address the Trades Union Congress could reinforce the hopes of those who want him to stay as Labour Party leader. Page 7

Men reinstated

Two men dismissed from Brixton employment office, whose case led to mass picketing, should be reinstated, the Civil Service Appeal Board ruled. Page 7

Bullfighter gored

Millionaire bullfighter Manuel Benítez — El Cordobés — is seriously ill in Madrid after being gored during a village bullfight. He returned last year after seven years' retirement.

Briefly...

New York's newest financial daily, The Wall Street Final, suspended publication after two months because of shortage of funds.

A New Delhi man has entered a glass chamber with 45 venomous snakes and hopes to set a world record by staying there 75 days.

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

RIBES	Expln.....	90 + 5
A. B. Electronics	184 + 6	
Assoc. Leisure	113 + 6	
Barclays Bank	420 + 8	
Brown (J.)	624 + 2	
Farnell Electronics	357 + 20	
GUS 'A'	45 + 8	
Hall (M.)	266 + 9	
Hambros Bank	548 + 18	
Istock Johnson	69 + 5	
Ladbroke	190 + 8	
Meat Trade Supp.	82 + 3	
Ocean Transport	135 + 7	
Pearl Assurance	414 + 14	
P & O Delf	132 + 5	
Security Centres	45 + 5	
Stock Conversion	452 + 9	
Imp. Cont. Gas	820 + 12	
Guthrie	875 + 50	
Hidong Estate	65 + 4	
Sogomana	375 + 15	
	Blackwood Hodge	43 - 6
	Catalin	52 - 5
	Clay (R.)	48 - 3
	Dufay Bituminastic	24 - 6
	Hawker Siddeley	228 - 10
	Hoover 'A'	142 - 6
	Lovell (G. F.)	38 - 4
	Philips Lamps	382 - 4
	Unigate	118 - 6
		44 - 4
		703 + 17
	LASMO	703 + 17
	Mount Lyell	96 - 6
	Nickelore	64 - 11
	Western Mining	298 - 7
	FALLS	
	Allstate Expln.....	90 + 5
	De Beers Delf.....	410 + 7
	Copeng Cons.....	590 + 30
	Haoma Gold.....	180 + 6
	Mineral Plat.....	350 + 10
	Metals Expln.....	80 + 7
	American News	4
	Intl. Companies	15-18
	Loader Page	12
	Appointments	7
	Latters	13
	Arts	11
	Base Rates	3
	Commodities	21
	Companies UK	14-15
	Crossword	10
	Entertain. Guide	10
	European News	2
	Overseas News	3
	Supermarkets	15
	FT Accurates	22
	Blackwood Hodge	43 - 6
	Catalin	52 - 5
	Clay (R.)	48 - 3
	Dufay Bituminastic	24 - 6
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	Lovell (G. F.)	38 - 4
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	Unigate	118 - 6
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	Nickelore	64 - 11
	Western Mining	298 - 7

Bowater closure halves UK newsprint capacity

BY WILLIAM HALL and JOHN ELLIOTT

BOWATER, Britain's biggest newsprint producer, is closing its main newsprint mill at Ellesmere Port in Cheshire. The move will cost 1,600 men and halve the country's newsprint capacity.

Bowater, in common with Reed, the only other UK newsprint producer, has been losing money for several years on its UK production.

Bowater has forecast that its Mersey Mill at Ellesmere Port, would lose "at least £6m" before tax in the current year and it has been urgently seeking Government aid to keep it open. It blamed the closure on high wood and energy costs.

Aside from producing 185,000 tonnes a year of newsprint (15 per cent of UK consumption), it also uses 270,000 tonnes of home-grown timber. The closure means Reed is now the only significant newsprint producer in the UK with about 10 per cent of the market.

The Society of Graphical and Allied Trades reacted sharply, warning of the possibility of newspaper disruptions. The Government's refusal to subsidise the company's operating costs reflects the determination of Sir Keith Joseph, Industry Secretary, not to use public funds to prop up lame duck enterprises at a time when Ministers are receiving pleas for help over energy prices from many industries.

The Government would have been prepared to provide

several millions of pounds of aid to assist Bowater build a new pulp mill because this would have involved new investment aimed partly at cutting imports.

But Ministers are not prepared to provide funds to offset high energy costs at least until studies are now being started by the Confederation of British Industry and the National Economic Development Office.

It is absolutely terrible that we are in a situation where wealth-creating industries are allowed to die," he said.

Bowater said yesterday that, in spite of a continuing full orderbook for its Ellesmere Port mill, its financial position was not likely to improve.

Although raw materials prices have risen substantially, there has been no price increase — after rebates — for newsprint in the UK over the last three and a half years because sterling's strength has kept down the price of imported newsprint which dominates the market.

Bowater said yesterday that the costs of wood, coal and electricity in Britain were extremely high compared with North American and Scandinavian competitors.

"With no prospect of any meaningful reduction in these manufacturing costs the closure of the mill is forced," the group said.

Dr. Ingram Lenton, Bowater's UK chief executive, said that wood and energy costs for

Mersey Mill were £7.5m higher than for a similar mill overseas. He said he had wanted Government help to meet these extra imports.

Dr. Lenton contrasted the depressed state of the UK newsprint industry with its continental rivals, which received various forms of support.

It is absolutely terrible that we are in a situation where wealth-creating industries are allowed to die," he said.

The closure blow for Britain's timber growers, which send just over a quarter of their production to UK paper and board mills. Earlier this year Wiggins Teape announced that it was closing its Fort William pulp mill which consumed over 150,000 tonnes of local timber.

As a result, UK growers will now have to find outlets for between 400,000 tonnes and 500,000 tonnes a year of UK timber. The Forestry Commission said it was negotiating the sale of 100,000 tonnes a year to Scandinavia for pulping.

Sir Keith's refusal of aid shows that, even though he has been prepared to soften his approach to some forms of Government support, he is not prepared to encourage new lame ducks. In recent weeks the Government has softened its line on aid for older problems in the steel industry and shipyards, and has also pro-

Continued on Back Page
Background Page 5

BL talks to BMW on parts exchange

By Elinor Goodman and Kenneth Gooding

BL and the West German car maker BMW have begun preliminary discussions about a possible exchange of components for future models.

BL stressed last night that the arrangement would be "no more than a simple co-operation deal."

The group denied any intention of making a future BMW model under licence in a deal similar to the one with Honda of Japan.

BL maintained that discussions with BMW (Bayerische Motoren Werke) were at the very early stages — "just exploratory talks."

It would give details about the type of components under consideration.

Resources

But it would make sense for the companies to combine resources to make some key components for future low-volume models, in BL's case perhaps a Jaguar.

BMW makes motor cycles and diesel engines as well as sports saloons. Its car output last year was 328,281 compared with BL's 504,000.

If the two do come to some firm arrangement they would be following a well-established trend.

Co-operation in developing and producing components is certain to become an even more important feature of the European motor industry in the 1980s as companies seek to cover the high costs of design and tooling with bigger output.

BL is known to have talked to Volkswagen and Renault about the joint development of exchange components.

Difficult

But such deals always prove extremely difficult to work out. One reason is that they always involve future models about which both potential partners are inevitably secret.

The authorities feel they cannot talk to the Gdansk strike committee for two reasons. One is that the committee includes members of the dissident free trade union, a small group which has gained enormously in influence since the strike began.

Second, the authorities are refusing to negotiate on those of the strikers' demands which they describe as "anti-socialist." These are mainly the demand for the right to set up an independent trade union movement, and the demand that the authorities respect the right of free speech as guaranteed in the Polish constitution.

The authorities hope that Mr. Gierek's speech will stem the wave of strikes and persuade people to go back to work. But initial reactions suggested that it lacked the necessary credibility to achieve this. The strikers in Gdansk are demand-

ing talks with a senior member of the leadership, but there are no signs that this demand will be met.

In 1979, toiletries and cosmetics accounted for 12.9 per cent of the company's £228.1m sales but only 5.3 per cent of the £24.2m operating profit.

The authorities clearly feel that the latter demand would endanger the present system of censorship, and, as a Government official said yesterday, would "open the media to anti-socialist elements."

Where the Warsaw Pact forces are, Page 2

Polish canal deal, Page 4

he hoped a formal announcement could be made before the end of the year.

In 1979, toiletries and cosmetics accounted for 12.9 per cent of the company's £228.1m sales but only 5.3 per cent of the £24.2m operating profit.

Mr. Renocks said the company had decided that the cosmetics division was not specifically related to its other activities and was not providing the return on capital needed. The division's problems also meant that it was taking up a disproportionate amount of top management time.

Mr. Renocks said a conclusion was not imminent although

Results, Page 15

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AMERICAN NEWS

WORLD TRADE NEWS

Carter 'renewal' package will include big tax cuts

BY DAVID BUCHAN IN WASHINGTON

THE "ECONOMIC renewal" cost the Treasury \$5.5bn in 1981, and more later. One of this controversial—its accord with general sentiment in Congress. But the Administration is warning against hasty tax cuts which simply put more money in consumer's pockets and boost the inflation rate again.

Another facet would be the financing of alternative energy, public transport, rail and port improvements out of the multi-billion dollar proceeds of the windfall profits tax on oil companies over the next decade.

Feeling the pinch of the new tax, the oil industry showed its first decline in profits for two years, according to Government figures yesterday on corporate profits in the April-June quarter. Overall, U.S. company profits dropped in the second 1980 quarter by a record \$5.5bn.

This part of the Administration's plan is its alternative to the \$12bn which the Kennedy forces wanted to create about 800,000 jobs. This, the Administration argued, would have been spent 100 randomly without improving ageing industrial infrastructure.

Aid to depressed regions of the country would be improved in recognition of the spotty

geographical nature of the economic recession. As a senior labour department official said this week, the constancy of the national unemployment rate in June and July masked a rise in unemployment in the broad area from Pennsylvania to Michigan, and an actual drop in other states.

Administration officials say they want to avoid a detailed industrial policy on the model of most European countries, whereby American civil servants would be in the business of picking "winners" among sectors of industry and bailing out the "losers." They excuse the government rescue of Chrysler as a one-off exception which they hope not to have to repeat.

But the administration has already set up a tripartite committee—of representatives from unions, management and government—for steel, and plans to do the same for the hard-hat industry.

It also happens that the Pennsylvania-Michigan belt—which is crucial to President Carter's re-election chances—is the base for the car, steel and rubber industries, which have all been suffering.

EEC hits back at anti-market arguments

By Margie Lindsay

AT A TIME when UK business men appear keen to condemn Britain's membership of the European Economic Community, trade figures indicate that the UK is continuing to do well out of its European partnership.

The reassurance has effectively defused a potential row with the U.S. over the planned deal between Kloeckner Industrieanlagen, the West German

industrial plant specialist, and the Soviet Union. U.S. Department of Commerce officials had indicated that they were seeking "clarification" on the matter from the Bonn Government on the deal.

The issue has its roots in an abandoned joint project between Alcoa, the U.S. aluminium concern, and Kloeckner

unter, which an advanced aluminium smelter—using an electrolysis process—would have been supplied to Moscow. The project involved some advanced technology, including process steering machinery.

Following the U.S. restrictions

on high technology trade with Moscow—imposed after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan—Alcoa withdrew and the project foiled.

Kloeckner Industrieanlagen is now involved in a second aluminium smelting project,

and this has triggered fears in

the U.S. that the West German

company was trying to profit

from Alcoa's withdrawal. But

both Bonn and Kloeckner deny

that this is the case.

The new project involves

virtually no advanced tech-

nology, and the value of the potential order is far below the DM 1bn (£235m) mooted for the original scheme. The company, said Economics Ministry officials yesterday, was neither in breach of the Cocom list of restricted strategic exports to the Soviet Union nor was it jumping in to business abandoned for political reasons by the U.S.

Ever since Bonn agreed that it would not seek to profit from the U.S. embargo, suspicious glances have been cast at West Germany's trade with the east. Thus U.S. officials privately expressed concern when Bonn and Moscow gave the political go-ahead recently for negotiations on a major east-west gas link-up.

The West German Government is adamant, however, that

Bonn assures U.S. over Soviet plant

BY ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A CONTROVERSIAL West German aluminium deal under negotiation with the Soviet Union does not breach Bonn's understanding with the U.S. of restricting sensitive exports to the East, according to West German officials.

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industrial plant specialist, and the Soviet Union. U.S. Department of Commerce officials had indicated that they were seeking "clarification" on the matter from the Bonn Government on the deal.

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W. Germans to boost Polish coal imports

BY OUR BONN CORRESPONDENT

WEST GERMANY is expecting to boost its imports of Polish coal by an extra 800,000 tonnes a year from 1985 under the terms of the large new bankloan credit agreed with Warsaw.

The projected coal deliveries will play an important part in the arrangement of the recent DM 1.2bn (£280m) credit to Poland, but details of the coal side of the deal have only just emerged. The credit provides for DM 800m to go towards debt servicing while DM 400m—backed by state guarantees—is designed to finance increased coal production.

Bonn is expecting Poland to

place a large part of the DM 400m with German companies to pay for equipment to exploit new coal deposits such as those in the Lublin area. At the same time, Warsaw will provide for increased coal deliveries from 1985.

The main significance of the coal shipments, however, is political. Bonn believes that one of the best ways of strengthening the Polish economy, and thus protect its own investments, is to help build up Poland's role as a copper, vanadium and coal supplier. After pushing up coal production by 7.5m tonnes last year, Poland managed to reach a 200m tonnes

output level for the first time. Poland, which exports about a quarter of its production, is the second largest coal supplier on the world market after the U.S.

Originally the plan was for Poland to deliver 1m tonnes of additional coal a year, but this was adjusted after the loan was scaled down from DM 1.5bn to DM 1.2bn and the state-backed component from DM 500m to DM 400m.

The banks, disturbed by the high level of Polish indebtedness with the West, had been wary of agreeing to the loan without wide-ranging guarantees from the Government.

Tenders called in Norway for Benin oilfield platform

BY PAV GIESER IN OSLO

MRI. ROBERT MULDOON, the New Zealand Prime Minister, has warned that the collapse of the garment arrangement between Australia and New Zealand under NAFTA, the New Zealand-Australia Free Trade Agreement, is a bad omen for the development of closer economic co-operation between the two countries.

Despite an optimistic view, the report also pointed out flaws in Britain's approach to EEC trade. In a series of interviews following the trade analysis companies, such as Rank Xerox, ICI and GEC, commented on their experiences of trading in the EEC.

Most found out that an aggressive marketing attitude in Europe was needed. Agents and distributors in member states were helpful in selling products and in overcoming local obstacles. A knowledge of other European languages was essential.

The successful companies manufactured products suited to the markets. Both the Trebor Group and Dowty Hydraulic Units noted that products need to be adapted to meet European tastes and needs.

Knowledge of proposed EEC legislation and understanding how to lobby for changes in proposals was essential, said Rank Xerox, Imperial Foods and Govett European.

Most of the blame for a lack of success in trading in the EEC lies squarely with the UK businessman and not with the Community as an institution, the Commission suggested.

Its survey showed that UK companies could do well in Europe, but better planning, imagination and determination, as well as an understanding of how the EEC works was required.

The message is clear: It is no good complaining about the game if you are not willing to learn the rules.

Australia by just over 2 to 1.

New Zealand will not accept a situation where the trade balance heavily favours Australia, while Australians want to pick the eyes out of it," said Mr. Muldoon.

He emphasised that considerable negotiation is still required before any closer agreement can be signed. "New Zealand is not going into this closer economic relationship on a hasty basis which will sell out New Zealand industry."

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Trans-Tasman trade favours

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At the same time, the level of trading in Ireland has remained buoyant with UK exports climbing to £76.2m from £63.9m.

The patchy nature of the figures and the obvious signs of deceleration in export sales has prompted the council again to try to make its self more representative of the whole industry. To this end, it is planning a series of meetings with the industry's major trade associations, Mr. Amos said.

UK FOOD EXPORTS are continuing to rise, but the pace of the rise has slackened. Sales abroad in the second quarter of this year were £867m, compared with £516m in the first quarter. Mr. Paul Amos, chairman of the British Food Export Council, noted yesterday.

But total exports during the 1980 first half were 22 per cent higher than the same period of 1979 at £983.7m agains £806.1m.

The council conceded, however, that even this rise, over the longer perspective, was not dramatic, and cited the effects of inflation on prices and the relatively low levels of exports in the 1979 first half.

The message is clear: It is no good complaining about the game if you are not willing to learn the rules.

It is clear, too, that the food industry's marketing operations

overseas. He referred to previous injunctions along the same lines which had warned that a failure to boost this activity would result in a worsening balance of trade and higher import penetration.

Although the sterling value of imports has declined since the 1979 first half, import volumes could well be higher. But the ratio of imports to exports remains at three-to-one and is, Mr. Amos said, "still far

too high."

The main market for UK exports remains the EEC, which took over two-thirds of sales abroad, for a total of £607.3m, during the 1980 first half. This figure is 28 per cent higher than in the same period of 1979.

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British food exports increase by 22%

BY PAUL CHEESRIGHT

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Financial Times Wednesday August 20 1980

NEW YORK — The Wall Street Final. New York's newest financial daily, has suspended publication after only two months.

Michael Goldstein, the publisher, said yesterday that the newspaper, which hampered the afternoon newspaper, published five times a week since June 18, had run out of funds and was

for a number of years, Citibank has been unique in the

U.S. banking system for using publicly-announced formula based on the cost of money market instruments.

Recently, the formula added 1.5 per cent to the average cost of certificates of deposit (CDs) over the previous three weeks.

At one time, the formula was based on the cost of commercial

little against Mr. Ronald Reagan, according to an Associated Press-NBC poll which

showed the Republican's lead narrowed to 7 percentage points.

Intense television and Press coverage of the New York Democratic Convention was expected to boost Mr. Carter's standing in the polls, though, of course, it also highlighted the barely-healed rift between the President and Senator Edward Kennedy.

Israel strikes at Palestinian bases

BY DAVID LENNON IN TEL-AVIV

THREE ISRAELI soldiers were killed in fierce hand-to-hand fighting with Palestinian guerrillas during a raid into southern Lebanon in which between 40 and 50 guerrillas were killed, according to Maj. Gen. Yehoshua Saguy, the Chief of Israeli Military Intelligence.

The raid was launched on Monday night against four targets inside Lebanon and was one of the largest we have made in the last three years," Gen. Saguy told a Press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday.

According to the Israelis, troops were engaged in two hours of fighting with the Palestinians, who Gen. Saguy said had been expecting an Israeli attack for some weeks. Asked if he thought the strength of the resistance indicated an improvement in the fighting

ability of the Palestinians, Gen. Saguy said: "If a person has his back against the wall, you expect him to fight for his life."

The targets were Palestinian command posts, logistics and operations bases in the Arnoun Plateau area, just north of the Litani River and some 10 kilometres from the Israeli border.

General Saguy said that 17 artillery pieces and some mortars were destroyed by the Israeli forces in their attack on Palestinian bases at Arnoun, Hannan, Tlalib and Ma'zra' All Tabar. Buildings and bunkers used by the guerrillas were also destroyed.

Israeli troops marched for five hours to reach their targets, and after the fighting, in which 12 Israeli soldiers were injured, they were withdrawn by heli-

copters. During the evacuation, Israeli Air Force planes attacked Palestinian artillery positions at nearby Beaufort Castle to enable the helicopters to take the men out without interference.

The Israeli forces also captured three men who General Saguy said were Palestinian guerrillas. They were brought to Israel for interrogation.

Mr. Menahem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister and acting Defence Minister, was at the operations command base in northern Israel during the course of the night.

A Palestinian spokesman said that the raiding party had numbered some 600 Israelis and that 30 Israelis and 11 Palestinians had been killed.

The U.S. Embassy in Beirut issued a statement condemning the attack.

Peking attacks Reagan over 'Two Chinas'

BY TONY WALKER IN PEKING

CHINA has launched a stinging attack against Mr. Ronald Reagan, the Republican candidate for U.S. President, on the eve of a visit to Peking by his running mate Mr. George Bush.

The People's Daily warned that any attempts to restore what it described as "Two Chinas" policy—meaning any recognition of Taiwan—could destroy relations between Peking and Washington.

Mr. Reagan is reported to have said on several occasions he would like to restore some formal link with Taiwan. China has previously spoken out against this proposal. In June, a People's Daily editorial warned that such a move would run counter to the spirit of the joint communique establishing Sino-U.S. relations.

But in Tokyo yesterday, Mr. Bush said a Reagan Administration would not revive a "Two Chinas" policy, and asserted



Mr. George Bush (left) with Mr. Ronald Reagan before departing for China. Can be answer Peking's fears?

he would have no trouble convincing Peking officials of this.

The People's Daily said in its attack: "Restoration of official relations with Taiwan today would in fact resuscitate the plot of creating two Chinas that has gone bankrupt long

ago. It is evident that this would be in essence destroy the basic principle of the normalisation of China-U.S. relations."

The tone of yesterday's People's Daily editorial is much stronger than the criticism in June. It is made more pointed

because of Mr. Bush's imminent arrival.

Mr. Bush is expected in Peking today for talks with Chinese officials. He will try to persuade his hosts that Mr. Reagan's proposals need not harm the Sino-U.S. relationship, but he is not expected to have an easy task.

The commentary, under the heading "Don't Miscalculate," accused Mr. Reagan of attempting to turn the clock back. "This cannot but arouse people's grave concern."

It was "known to all" that the establishment of official relations between China and the U.S. was based on the principle of U.S. recognition of the irrefutable fact that there is only one China, and Taiwan is its integral part, the paper said.

"Open advocacy of 'Two Chinas' constitutes interference in China's internal affairs."

Australia plays safe with election-year Budget

BY JAMES FORTH IN SYDNEY

THE AUSTRALIAN Government played it safe in an election year, and opted for a bland 1980-81 Budget. There were no increases in personal taxes or excise on items such as cigarettes, beer and wine.

Instead, the Government has again opted for a fairly "tight" Budget, which aims as its major priority, at refining back on the inflation rate.

Details have already been extensively leaked. The budget aims for growth in non-farm product in 1980-81 of 3.5 per cent, and 3 per cent in gross domestic product, compared with 2.25 per cent in 1979-80.

The inflation rate, as measured by the consumer price index, is assumed to be fairly static at about 10 per cent. Yet the Government is aiming for a growth in money supply of only 9.11 per cent, which implies a fairly tight rein over

Explosion kills 80 in S. Iran

EIGHTY PEOPLE were killed and 45 injured when a warehouse exploded in southern Iran on Monday night, Iranian state radio stated. Reuter reports from Tehran. Reuter quoted the radio as saying the blast occurred after a fire in a neighbouring building spread to an explosives dump belonging to a road construction company in Gachsaran, a town on the border of the oil-producing area of Khuzestan.

Khuzestan has been the scene of frequent sabotage by Iranian Arabs seeking autonomy.

Tekere freed on bail

MR. EDGAR TEKERE, the Zimbabwe Minister charged with murdering a white farmer, was released on bail of Z\$50,000 (\$60,000) yesterday after Mr. Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, pledged to ensure that his Minister would not avoid trial. Reuter reports from Salisbury.

Mr. Christopher Glaum, acting Attorney General, told the High Court he had no objection to bail because Mr. Mugabe had "given a verbal undertaking to see to it that Minister Tekere does stand trial."

Vanuatu arrests

PAPUA NEW GUINEA troops yesterday rounded up 50 people, most of them foreigners, on the island of Espiritu Santo, Reuter reports.

An official of the Vanuatu Government said the arrests were made during looting on Monday night and early yesterday, at a cord of roadblocks around Santo's main town of Luganville and when a patrol boat stopped and took five vessels into custody. The 150 troops, only arrived on the island yesterday.

S. Korea clampdown

SOUTH KOREA'S military-backed government yesterday ordered the closure of 617 publishing houses as part of an official "purification" campaign led by the army leader Gen. Chun Doo-Hwan. Reuter reports from Seoul.

Meanwhile, 14 members of the South Korean National Assembly, detained last month on charges of corruption, will resign their parliamentary posts, the Martial Law Command said yesterday. Six of them, including four former Cabinet Ministers under the late President Park Chung-Hee, are from Mr. Park's Democratic Republican Party.

India cholera deaths

At least 275 people have died in a cholera epidemic spread by devastating floods in the North Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, the Press Trust of India said yesterday. Reuter reports from New Delhi. The floods have already killed 500 people in landslides, house collapses and drownings, the agency added.

In neighbouring Bangladesh, more than 100,000 people were marooned on high ground and the death toll stood at 34 in the country's worst flooding since 1974, newspapers in Dacca said.

Palestine leaders' appeal rejected

By David Lennon

OUR BEIRUT correspondent adds: Beirut Radio reported yesterday that the raid began at 10.15 pm and that a vacant United Nations observation post near Beaufort Castle was completely wrecked. It said dozens of houses were destroyed in the market town of Nahrivieh in Tripoli. A UN spokesman said that the raiding party, backed by the forces of the renegade Lebanese army commander Major Saad Haddad, had fired some 1,700 artillery, mortar and tank rounds in the course of the night.

A Palestinian spokesman said that the raiding party had numbered some 600 Israelis and that 30 Israelis and 11 Palestinians had been killed.

The U.S. Embassy in Beirut issued a statement condemning the attack.

THE PHILIPPINES IN RECESSION

After the earthquake

BY PHILIP BOWRING

THE PHILIPPINES is used to earthquakes and their after-effects—tsunamis. The earthquake causes most alarm, but the waves causes most damage and loss of life.

In the past months, the Philippines has been feeling the shocks of successive oil price increases on its balance of payments, its inflation rate and the real incomes of many people. That has been a visible, tangible issue to which the country has faced up.

The immediate shock has been largely absorbed, but the recessionary wave is still building up. True, energy price rises have been passed on to consumers, who have complained, but at least have had a visible external object on which to vent their frustration—the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Consumer price inflation has also now largely absorbed the oil shock. Prices in the first half of this year rose at an annual rate of 20 per cent, after an 18 per cent increase in 1979.

The rate of increases is beginning to fall sharply, as oil-related rises have now mostly flowed through. The rate for the whole year looks likely to be about 17 per cent, add by the end of the year the annualised rate could be closer to 10 per cent.

At government level, the shock has stirred efforts towards oil substitution through coal, hydro-electric power and geothermal energy.

The Government has also granted to the mayors, the court said, because there was no evidence they had called for Israel's limitation. But they denied the appeal process to Sheikh Tamimi because, the court ruled, he had called for Israel's destruction during speeches in Hebron.

Meanwhile, Ecuador has apparently become the third Latin American country to decide to transfer its embassy from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. In protest over the recent Israeli law proclaiming all of Jerusalem as the nation's capital.

As in 1974, last year's oil shock was followed by a brief commodity boom. Last year, despite oil, the Philippines' terms of trade rose by 4 per cent—although that still left them a crushing 20 per cent below 1972 levels.

Manufacturing output rose by only 4 per cent last year, despite a sharp rise in manufactured exports, and this year is likely to be even worse, with exports again the only bright spot.

Agriculture, however, grew by 6 per cent in both 1978 and 1979, and should show similar strength this year. The Philippines' current account deficit in 1980 would be about \$2bn, compared with \$1.6bn in 1979. The deficit would help sustain gross national product growth, at least equal to last year's 5.8 per cent. Now, it may be scrapping for dollars. But at least the current account should be in surplus.

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Joint chief executive of Unigate resigns

BY CHRISTINE MOIR

MR. JOHN READ has left Unigate after five years in which he and Mr. John Clement, the chairman and joint chief executive, worked closely together to develop the company's new structure and image.

The parting is said to have been entirely amicable. Mr. Read said yesterday that he had resigned as joint chief executive because "it was not good for the company that the two of us should grow old together." Mr. Clement is 48 and Mr. Read is 44.

Following the announcement of Mr. Read's resignation, Unigate shares fell 6p to 118p. "It was time for me to go," Mr. Read said. "I should be able to say in a few weeks what

I am going to do but not at the moment."

He denied, however, that his future plans included more involvement at either Metal Box or Equity and Law, at both of which he is a non-executive director.

But it has been the building up of large cash reserves which has more recently attracted the market. Last year the company sold its creameries to the Milk Marketing Board for £87m.

Since then investments and cash reserves have continued to grow. One attempted acquisition of Cliford Dairies, was called off amid recriminations and criticism.

Mr. Read denied that any difference of opinion had developed between him and Mr. Clement over the company's philosophy.

Pre-tax profits have been

moving sharply ahead throughout the period of their joint leadership to a peak of £51.4m last year, compared with £23m in 1973.

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Coal demand to dip by 5m tonnes

BY RAY DAFTER, ENERGY EDITOR

THE DEMAND for coal is expected to fall by about 5m tonnes, to 120m tonnes, this year, according to Sir Derek Extra, chairman of the National Coal Board.

The Board had been hit by short-term market problems arising from the general fall in energy demand, he said. But it was important that the coal industry's "excellent" long-term prospects should not be jeopardised.

Last year had seen a turnaround in the industry's fortunes. He told miners at Thoresby Colliery, near Mansfield, the Board could continue to build on the success of 1979, when output was up 4m tonnes, coalface productivity was at a record level, and attendance had greatly improved.

It was important not to lose that impetus. "The fact that energy demand is going to be temporarily reduced is no reason

why we should put off our long-term strategy," he said.

While other industries were working short time, the coal industry was maintaining high employment without short-time working or many redundancies.

The Coal Board was also helping to relieve unemployment among school leavers, Sir Derek said. In the 14 north Nottinghamshire area pits, for example, 450 juveniles had already been recruited this year. Manpower had risen by 213 to 18,693. These increases were in addition to the 37 new jobs created last year.

North Nottinghamshire, he said, was showing an excellent return on capital investment which, since 1974, had been rising at £50m a year. Output was well up on last year and productivity was about 5 per cent higher.

But he warned that future demand would be determined by the British coal industry's ability to compete with the world producers. Imported coal — not oil — presented the most serious competition.

Employment suggestion

BY JAMES McDONALD

EMPLOYMENT SUGGESTED Greater activity in the small companies sector would create more employment, while new investment in improved technology in many major industries often tended to reduce employment, Mr. Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services, said in Taunton yesterday.

"This is why the Government has been exploring every avenue to see what help and stimulus can be given to this sector and how existing burdens can be reduced," he told a conference organised by West Somerset's Small Industries' Group.

"In the Department of Environment's sphere we have

Heat pumps factory plan

By Maurice Samuels

A FACTORY capable of manufacturing 1,000 heat pumps a year is being built at Witham, Essex. In an attempt to meet the demand for more efficient heating systems.

The plant, to be built by Trace Cleveland, the heating engineers, will cost an estimated £120,000 and will employ 70 people when completed early next year.

It will produce electrically-powered heat pumps designed for factories and commercial premises. The pump's basic principle is the same as a refrigerator. In which a compressor transfers heat from one part of a coil to another.

Other benefits which the Local Government Planning and Land Bill introduces are the possibility for small firms to pay rates by instalments and the extension of a proportion of domestic rate relief to many more mixed commercial and domestic properties."

looked very critically at the influence of the planning system on small businesses and are making a number of changes which should help.

A proposed development control circular which we hope to issue shortly will stress the importance of not refusing planning permission for small scale commercial and industrial activities unless there are strong and specific reasons.

"Other benefits which the Local Government Planning and Land Bill introduces are the possibility for small firms to pay rates by instalments and the extension of a proportion of domestic rate relief to many more mixed commercial and domestic properties."

"In the Department of Environment's sphere we have

been hard hit by high interest rates, falling consumer demand, and the strong pound which made exporting difficult," the airline said.

Mr. Read denied that any difference of opinion had developed between him and Mr. Clement over the company's philosophy.

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moving sharply ahead throughout the period of their joint leadership to a peak of £51.4m last year, compared with £23m in 1973.

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Caledonian seeks licence for Middle East

By Michael Donne, Aerospace Correspondent

BRITISH Caledonian Airways wants to fly four times a week between Gatwick and the Middle East, as part of its new service to Hong Kong.

The airline told the Civil Aviation Authority in London yesterday that Gatwick was isolated from the Middle East Gulf area—a major destination for passengers and cargo shippers with links in the south of England, the area Gatwick serves.

"It is in the interest of the public and British Caledonian that it be able to build its frequencies on the Hong Kong route to a daily service. With the traffic support of the Gulf, that could not be achieved in the foreseeable future," the airline said.

• FARE REQUEST: British Airways has asked the Civil Aviation Authority for approval to cut up to £29 off the normal economy-class Shuttle return fare for selected flights between London (Heathrow) and Glasgow-Edinburgh this winter.

The normal rate is £94 return and BA wants to offer a return fare of £65 on the last Shuttle flight of the day between November 1 and March 31. The airline is seeking cuts in some excursion fares.

• WESTWARD CLASH: The board of Westward Television, led by new chairman Lord Harris of Greenwich, yesterday decided to challenge writs issued by deposed chairman Mr. Peter Cadbury seeking declarations that an extraordinary shareholders' meeting called for October 17 is invalid; that Mr. Cadbury's own summoning of a meeting for September 10 is valid; and that the board's insistence that he should not use his own voting shares to regain the Westward chair is also invalid.

• WEEDKILLER TALKS: Mr. Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, yesterday met Government experts and trades union representatives to discuss the controversial herbicide 245-T which members of the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers want banned despite assurances from the Pesticides Advisory Committee. A report is expected to be published by the Government in September.

• PACIFIC PRAISE: Mr. Con Allday, chairman of Pacific Nuclear Transport, yesterday praised Swan Hunter, part of British Shipbuilders, for delivering the 3,000 tonnes nuclear carrier Pacific Crane six weeks ahead of schedule, and added that a "keen" quotation might win a repeat order.

• UNITS TRUSTS: BREWING companies faced with the prospect of falling beer sales and reduced production, are to be asked to freeze their rents on their tied public houses.

The call for a rent freeze, covering up to 36,000 leased public houses, is to be made at the next meeting of the National Union of Licensed Victuallers and the Brewers Society in September.

The Union will argue that increases are not justified at a time when beer sales are falling with the prospect of a poor winter ahead.

Publians' groups in Manchester, Salford and Somerset have called for rent freezes during the past week.

The publians say that most tenants are faced with rent rises of more than £1,000 per year. No national average figure for rents is available. Assessments by the breweries are generally for three years and a catch up element is included.

The brewers are sceptical over the possibility that publians might take any action to withhold rents. Competition in the pub is increasing and, in a declining market, loss of business could lead to the closure of some pubs.

• CYRIL HANCOCK, a superintendent at the Goonharrow clay-pit at St Austell, Cornwall, is to retire next month, more than a year earlier than he had planned.

His decision to take advantage of English China Clays' voluntary retirement scheme will save a younger man from redundancy, as the worldwide recession bites the china clay industry.

English China Clays' workforce of 7,000 comprises 25 per cent of the town's total population, so that nearly the whole community is dependent on the company.

Up to 300 workers are expected to opt for early retirement to save others from the dole. The company wants to avoid repetition of its experience during the slump in 1971. Then, many good young workers moved from the area after being made redundant on the last in first out basis.

Both company and unions want to save the jobs of younger people whose experience will be needed.

The company has always tried to look after the wider interests of its employees, for example



Philips to close audio factory

BY ELAINE WILLIAMS

PHILIPS INDUSTRIES' only audio-goods factory in the UK is to close in November with the loss of 390 jobs.

The King's Lynn factory makes music-centres and televisions for the audio and television industries. It is being closed because of a fall in demand for music-centres and a static market for television sets, the company said yesterday.

Workers at the factory have been on a three-day week since May. Philips has lost £5m on products made there in the past five years. Because there was no hope of recovery, Philips decided to import music-centres from its main plant in Belgium.

More than half the companies in the UK audio industry are now on short-time. This is because of a sudden fall in demand for music-centres—audio systems in which radio, tape circuit and record-deck are contained in one unit. This coincided with increasing import penetration from the Far East.

The British Radio Equipment Manufacturers' Association said yesterday that the music-centre market had stagnated. Sales this year were expected to be at or below last year's level of 982,000 units.

• GRUNDIG is closing its Belfast factory cutting 1,000 jobs because of Far Eastern competition. The Rank Organisation recently announced plans to end manufacture of music-centres in the UK at the end of the year.

Other companies, such as ITT and Fidelity, have found the market increasingly difficult.

The industry's problems are also due to a swing away from music-centres in favour of products made up of separate units which can be mounted vertically in cabinets.

• GRUNDIG is closing its Belfast

Perkins may accept fewer redundancies

BY FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

WORKERS at the Perkins diesel engine plant in Peterborough were told yesterday that the company is willing to accept fewer redundancies in return for improved efficiency.

Perkins, which employs 9,000 people, announced last week that it must shed 900 jobs because of declining orders. But, in factory notices yesterday, the company said that the redundancies could be reduced with the co-operation of the workforce.

The management said that, if the trade unions and company reached agreement on improving efficiency, the redundancy exercise would go ahead on a volunteers-only basis.

The downturn in the motor industry has forced the Hull-based car components and mining equipment maker, J. H. Fenn, to make 130 workers redundant. Both clerical and shopfloor workers are affected.

Almost half the work force of 110 employees, of Bonser Engineering of Giltbrook, Nottinghamshire, makers of forklift and dumper trucks, are to lose their jobs because of a sharp fall in home demand. Two other subsidiaries in the Nottingham area are to make another 90 workers redundant.

A further 90 jobs are to be lost at GEC Machines factory in Newcastle under Lyme, North Staffordshire, where 50 people

were made redundant last month.

About 500 workers out of a total of 720 are already on short-time work, and the company has announced its intention to extend short-time working even further.

Rebey, Lincoln maker of boilers and mining machinery, is cutting 70 jobs. Last year, it made 100 redundancies.

Dickinson Robinson, the stationery and packaging group, is closing its Hertfordshire-based stapling machine factory with the loss of about 30 jobs. It has already announced jobs cuts totalling 650 at its stationery subsidiary John Dickinson because of a business downturn.

More than 3,000 workers at the plastic foam manufacturer Storay Breffers, which has plants in Lancaster and Bransham, Suffolk, are to be put on short-time working, due to a lack of orders.

James McDonald writes: Lack of opportunity, language difficulties and economic hardship seems to have trapped the Bengali community in London's East End in a "classic cycle of deprivation," says a report on the employment and training needs of the community, published today.

Employment and Training Needs of the Bengali Community in Tower Hamlets, Commission for Racial Equality, 10 Allington Street, London SW1.

adviser at County Hall, Truro, said the number of applicants for the opportunities programme is expected to increase by between 25 and 28 per cent this year.

The total of 1,484 people unemployed in the town is 12.4 per cent more than the total last year. This number may be swelled by almost-certain redundancies at John Williams, part of the building division of English China Clays.

St. Austell has to face the fact that in order to remain competitive English China Clays needs to invest in machinery to increase automation of clay extraction and processing. This means, ultimately, that there will be fewer job opportunities or, at least, no more than needed today.

All decisions relating to the company's future were taken with the unions' full support. Since the mid-1960s, after a particularly unpleasant confrontation, both sides tried to foster good industrial relations.

By and large this has been successful. Unions realised that without the company "the grass would very soon grow over St. Austell."

English China Clays pits its wits

Cyril Hancock, a superintendent at the Goonharrow clay-pit at St Austell, Cornwall, is to retire next month, more than a year earlier than he had planned.

His decision to take advantage of English China Clays' voluntary retirement scheme will save a younger man from redundancy, as the worldwide recession bites the china clay industry.

English China Clays' problems stem from a recession in paper industry. This caused a fall in demand for its products. To remain competitive the company increased the level of automation in clay-extraction, so that fewer workers are needed at its pits.

St. Austell's dependence on the company, in spite of the decline, has saved the town from the worst effects of the recession. It has one of the lowest unemployment rates in Cornwall, 7 per cent compared with 9.5 per cent for the county.

Before Mr. Hancock leaves he will be invited to attend the company's 44-day preirement course intended to bridge the gap between work and retirement.

Mr. Kenneth Barker, careers

adviser at County Hall, Truro, said the number of applicants for the opportunities programme is expected to increase by between 25 and 28 per cent this year.

A comparison of the figures for 1975-79 with those related to the five years before the Act came into force, says the report, shows that the fatal accident rate fell by nearly a quarter in construction, and a fifth in manufacturing and agriculture.

In his report, Mr. John Locke, director general of the Health and Safety Executive which is responsible to the commission, says that one of the service's hardest tasks is balancing the resources put into the three main kinds of problem

risk of immediate accidents; risk of permanent damage to health caused by exposure to chemicals, noise or radiation; and risk of major catastrophes which could injure or kill large numbers of people.

The work of the executive's Nuclear Installation inspectorate, says Mr. Locke, has provided a strong base for analysing and handling risks in the major catastrophe category. Over the past few years, the executive had developed its capacity to deal with major fires and explosions and the release of toxic chemicals.

Plan for Scottish exhibition centre

By RAY PERMAN, SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

THE SCOTTISH Development Agency is studying the possibility of building a £25m national exhibition centre for Scotland.

After looking in detail at the English national centre, the agency believes it can avoid some of the financial and other mistakes which have dogged the complex near Birmingham and have discouraged some exhibitors from using it.

The Scottish centre, if the agency decides to seek Government approval to go ahead, will not have to bear the burden of its initial construction costs. These would be met by the agency and from other public sources.

After that, the centre would be independently managed and expected to cover its running expenses.

It would not be as isolated as the Birmingham centre, which is several miles from the city. From 50 possible sites, the agency has selected as most suitable an area of Glasgow dockland which already has railway and motorway links and is within a short taxi journey of the city centre and boats.

Glasgow already has a major exhibition centre, the Kelvin Hall, which attracts many national shows. But the building

is old and too small for the type of international trade and industrial events that the agency would want to attract.

Mr. Lewis Robertson, chief executive, said yesterday that studies of costs, revenues and funding could be completed by early next year when the agency would make a formal submission to the Government.

The centre would initially be a quarter of the size of the Birmingham complex, with 250,000 sq ft of covered exhibition space. Land would be available to double that area.

There could be 1,500 permanent jobs with a further 700 available during the two-year construction period.

Mr. Robertson said: "Our main concern is to contribute to industrial development and to strengthen the marketing of Scottish products and services through modern exhibition facilities."

"To make a centre commercially viable it will have to get maximum operation revenue through intense use from available space."

"A multi-purpose centre would accommodate trade and industrial exhibitions, public consumer exhibitions, entertainment and sporting events which are all essential revenue earners."

A very personal country hotel

HOPE END, a couple of miles outside and a couple of hundred feet above Ledbury, is where England begins to peter out. A few miles to the west, Wales begins. These are the Marches, those parts of England that all good Welshmen, like myself, believe were once stolen from the Principality.

Hope End Country House Hotel stands in 40 acres of this Herefordshire countryside. Mrs. Patricia Hegarty, who runs Hope End with her husband John, says that her family have lived in the county for 500 years, which should just about take them back to the time it was Welsh.

She comes from good yeoman stock. Great grandfather Stephen built the canal and brought the railway to the town, but it was her grandfather who bought Hope End, which means "house at the end of the hidden valley."

There is no house there now, the building which was once the home of Elizabeth Barrett for 23 years before she became Elizabeth Barrett Browning, having long since been demolished, but the stables have become the present country house hotel, a transmogrification.

They are headed by Brighton, which is estimated to have earned £11.3m from conference business, will mean a halving of the country's newsprint capacity.

The other towns are, in order of revenue share: Harrogate, Sheffield, Blackpool and Cardiff, Bournemouth, Eastbourne, Scarborough, Torbay.

Survey of Conference Business to Major Conference Towns, 1979, published by RPA Management, Russell Chambers, Covent Garden, London WC2A 2AA; price £20.

Both Reed and Bowater have

been losing money for several years on newsprint production and Reed's chairman, Sir Alex Jarrett, said last month that the future of his company's newsprint operations "was the subject of deep and active study."

The closure has been completed. Bowater will have one newsprint machine plus one making paper towels as well as newsprint left in the UK, at its Kempsley site in Kent. This has a capacity of 40,000 tonnes a year.

The only other UK producer, Reed International, has three newsprint machines at two sites in Kent capable of producing 155,000 tonnes a year.

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The closure has been completed. Bowater will have one newsprint machine plus one making paper towels as well as newsprint left in the UK, at its Kempsley site in Kent. This has a capacity of 40,000 tonnes a year.

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Technical Page

EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND ALAN CANE

• FARMING

Automatic testing of milk

DAIRY farmers have something solid to show for the half per cent of their milk takings they contribute to the EEC's dairy levy. The Milk Marketing Board has installed an automatic batch milk tester at its Worcester laboratory whose design and manufacture was paid for through the levy.

The cost was around £100,000; the machine was designed and built by Cambridge Consultants, a technology based firm in the Cambridge "Science Park" which provides design and manufacturing services to industry.

The machine is designed to detect evidence of the disease brucellosis at the earliest stage. Up to 5,000 samples of milk a day are received at the laboratory from herds all over England and Wales. Samples are chosen for test and placed in the machine which automatically mixes the samples with a substance which will give a colour change if brucellosis

infection is present.

The mixed samples are incubated for one hour at 37 degrees centigrade before inspection.

This is the only part of the test that remains with a human operator.

James Booth, director of the laboratory, explained that the test is highly subjective, as the operator is looking for either a mere trace of brucellosis or up to four different grades of infection.

Built as a one-off, the machine will deal with all the sampling necessary for England and Wales (which is now 99 per cent brucellosis free). Cambridge Consultants believe the machine has considerable export potential. Experts from the Canadian Ministry of Agriculture are expected to examine it later this year.

Cambridge Consultants is on 0223 358835. The Milk Marketing Board Laboratory is on 0905 424940.

• MATERIALS

Conveyor belt fabric

PRIMARILY INTENDED for demanding applications is a conveyor belt fabric called Tygator, woven from Kevlar fibre coated with PTFE, introduced by Fothergill and Harvey, Summit, Littleborough, Lancashire (0768 75821).

Conveyor belts produced from this material promise not to lose strength when wet, says the company, and have a number of benefits including low shrinkage and coefficient of thermal expansion, and flame and heat resistance superior to most organics.

The fibre does not melt—decomposition occurring at 420 degrees C—and has good resistance to most acids, alkalis, solvents, alcohols, greases and vacuum drying.

FILLING THE GENERATION GAP

Plessey generating sets 300W and 1.5kWDC.

Rugged reliability to military specifications is built-in to these man-portable engine-driven generators. For the cost-conscious professional, they offer value for money in such applications as stand-by power, communications and battery charging. Where you need power you can rely on absolutely—order your sets direct from Plessey!

PLESSEY

Plessey Generation Systems
Plessey Works, Tividale, Birmingham, UK
PO14 4QA
Telephone Tividale (021 94) 43031

• HYDRAULICS

Gives hull a good scrub

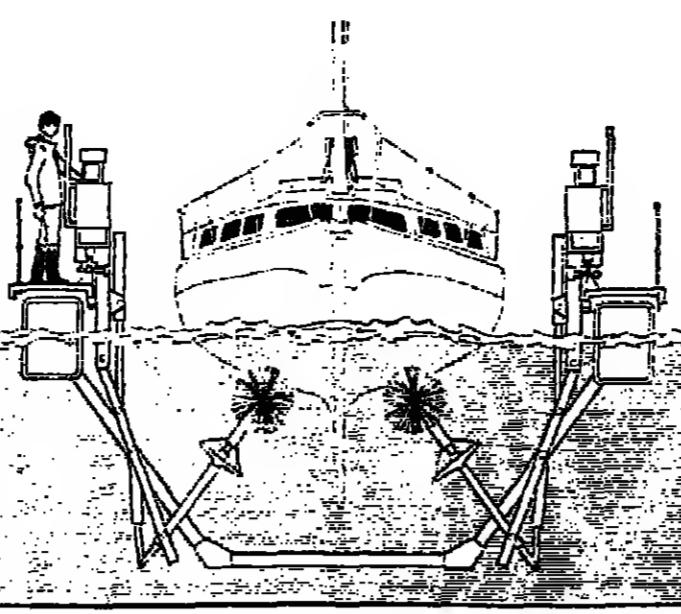
IMAGINE A hydraulic car wash working upside down in the sea and you will understand the principle behind "Seascrub", a new machine for cleaning boat hulls.

According to the makers, Hyd Marine Developments of Farnborough, Hampshire, the machine can be used to clean any length of boat including those with deep finned keels using either fresh or salt water.

A prototype has been working in Poole harbour for some months. Mr. Graham Phillips, who dreamed up the idea of "Seascrub" says that tests show that the machine's 12 inch polypropylene bristles defeat the bottoms of boats effectively.

The sensing system which controls the brush position against the boat is completely controlled by an hydraulic feed back system. No electronic sensors or servo arrangements are involved.

Mr. Christopher Good, managing director of Hyd Marine, aims to sell the machine at £20,000 to marinas and yacht harbours, where he thinks it will be possible to offer a complete hull cleaning service for about £1.00 a scrubbed foot—



at present, the procedure is to book your boat into a marina where it is lifted out of the water and cleaned by marina staff. The price can be as much as £2.50 a scrubbed foot.

Mr. Good plans to market "Seascrub" world-wide but chiefly to operators catering for leisure boating. There is some military interest in the machine, however, for cleaning fast patrol boats.

Those who believe prevention is better than cure may like to try a new anti-fouling compound developed by Research Consultants.

The new compound, Planktex, can be applied to any structure which passes its working life in water—ships, oil rigs, piers or piles.

Anti-fouling compounds generally release a poison—usually an oxide of copper or arsenic—from a paint resin. But there are bacteria in sea water which unsportingly convert the poison from oxide to sulphide which is insoluble and so seals the surface.

Research Consultants has added an anti-bacterial chemical to the mix to keep the bacteria at bay and so maintain the efficiency of the anti-foul.

Research Consultants points out that the cost of a large tanker can add £50,000 in fuel costs on a journey between the Arabian Gulf and Europe.

Hyd Marine is on 0252 517333; Research Consultants on 01-674 6723/4.

• INSTRUMENTS

New look for Zeiss microscope

FOR ROUTINE work, the latest microscope from West German company Carl Zeiss has a box-shaped construction unlike other instruments on the market and has been designed to be simple to use with the minimum of controls.

In these areas the open mesh fabric belts are said to give good and even air circulation with the PTFE coating providing a low friction, easy release, chemical resistant surface that remains tough and flexible at temperatures from minus 150 to plus 260 degrees C.

They are recommended for the majority of drying systems in use for food manufacture, also throughout industry for hot air, infra red, microwave, radio frequency, heated platens and vacuum drying.

ing the selected focus and without risking damage to the slide or the objective lens above. Irrespective of slide thickness, specimens immediately come into focus after every change, so that even at high magnification only minimum fine focusing will be required.

The instrument also has automatic Koehler illumination, saving a good deal of tedious adjustment. One knob selects the objective and at the same

time the field and aperture stops automatically adapt to give perfect illumination to match the selected objective. The condenser aperture can be reduced with an iris diaphragm until the best compromise between contrast and resolution is achieved.

More from PO Box 4YZ, 31 Foley Street, London W1A 4YZ (01 536 3030).

Monitors temperatures

ORIGINALLY intended for energy monitoring, a digital averaging direct reading thermometer designed by the National Engineering Laboratory can now be modified for other applications.

The period over which the temperature must be monitored is pre-set by means of thumb-wheel switches.

When the measurement period has been completed the average temperature for that period is stored and the next measurement cycle is automatically initiated. The readings are updated and auto-

matically stored and can be recalled and read from a display during the subsequent measuring cycle. It is not necessary to note manually the reading as soon as the measurement cycle has been completed.

The measurement period can be pre-set in multiples of half-day intervals up to a maximum of 99 half days. Though other basic intervals are possible, half-day units were chosen because of their relevance to energy monitoring applications.

The thermometer is being produced and marketed under licence by Grantech, 30 Earl Haig Road, Hillington Industrial Estate, Glasgow G52 4JU. (041 883 0327.)

• METALWORKING

Automatic gauging press

MAKING ITS debut at the Chicago Fair (1980) will be a new W. A. Whitney Corporation computer numerically controlled automatic gauging press for small and medium batch fabrication.

Production rates are said to be substantially increased by the elimination of manual setting of drop stops or other types of manual gauging, all co-ordinate gauge points being automatically set.

The over-protected hydraulic press can deliver its full 30-ton capacity throughout the entire stroke, control of which is pre-set for standard or high shear punching. Thickness of material which may be machined ranges from 0.7 mm to 6.4 mm and typical punching capacity in 14 gauge steel (1.9 mm) is 127 mm diameter or equivalent. Nibbling capacity is up to 6 mm.

Positioning accuracy over the 1,016 mm x 1,524 mm gauging area is plus or minus 0.25 mm, positioning speed is 5 metres per minute, and minimum programmed increment is 0.01 mm. As no manual removal or repositioning of the plate is necessary, savings of up to 30 per cent in handling time can be achieved, it is claimed.

U.K. agent for this machine is AMCS, P.O. Box 6, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 0LL (073 081 2498).

After three years of depressed vehicle sales, the market responded strongly to the Group, with its diversified franchise structure, was well poised to take advantage of the upturn. Earnings per share showed growth of 13% in 1979, and the Group's share price was the highest ever achieved.

Final Ordinary Dividend No. 79.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the final ordinary dividend for the year ended 30 June 1980 payable to holders of ordinary shares registered in the books of the company at the date of the dividend will be 15 pence per share.

The dividend is payable in the currency of the Republic of South Africa and dividends will be posted in South Africa to all shareholders in the course of establishing the shareholders entitled to participate in this dividend, the transfer register of the company will be closed from 4 October 1980 to 10 November 1980. Shareholders who have not yet registered their share of address and/or dividend instructions must be lodged with the transfer secretaries on or before 3 October 1980 at the address given below.

Non-resident shareholders' tax of 15% will be deducted by the company from dividends payable to shareholders who are addressed in the register of members outside the Republic of South Africa.

By Order of the Board.

B. J. CLOUTON, F.C.I.S., Secretary.

Registered Office:

1101 Nedbank Circle,
Nedbank Road,

DURBAN
Transfer Secretaries and Certificates Office:

Hill Street, Durban (S.A.) Limited,
P.O. Box 62318,
MARSHALLTOWN, TRANSVAAL, 2107.

15 August 1980.

Notice is given to attend and vote at the Annual Ordinary Meeting.

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THE MANAGEMENT PAGE

EDITED BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

Kenneth Gooding looks at how a flexible manufacturing structure enabled a U.S. multinational to absorb the loss of a major plant...

ALMOST ON the stroke of midnight three weeks after he arrived in Britain from the U.S. to take over as head of the Eaton Corporation's truck components business in Europe, John Rodewig's telephone rang. The caller came straight to the point. "I am sorry to have to tell you this. But the Manchester factory has burned down."

That was no exaggeration; not much could be salvaged from the plant. Up to that time Manchester was responsible for producing roughly one-third of all the Eaton-Fuller truck gearboxes the U.S. group manufactures in Europe.

"Yet no customer has gone short of gearboxes since the fire last September. Eaton has been able to step up production at other plants where the Fuller transmission is made to the same specification—at Basingstoke, in Hampshire, and at St Nazaire in France, and even to some extent in the U.S."

This has been possible because Eaton has steadily built up its international operations over the past 25 years, and at the same time has stuck to a policy of making truck components which are completely interchangeable world wide and will fit any truck whether it is assembled in North America, Europe, Asia or Australia.

Eaton is one of the handful of component manufacturers which should be able to keep pace with the multinational vehicle makers as they develop "world cars" and "world trucks" during the 1980s. The near-disaster at Manchester emphasised Eaton's lead on most of its major competitors because its own "world components" network has been in place for many years.

But the question remains of how it hopes to maintain that position now that everyone else is getting in on the act.

Its strategy is based partly on defence, partly on attack and also very heavily on technology. Some 18 months ago Eaton's truck components division stepped up research and development spending from 2 to 4 per cent of annual sales—or from \$20m to \$40m last year. And the higher rate of expenditure will continue for at least another 18 months, although not all this will be concentrated on truck transmissions. Eaton is the only independent truck component supplier which can offer the complete drivetrain—transmission, axles and brakes.

However, it is at the heavy end of the truck transmission market that Eaton has the most to lose as the industry hastily reshapes itself.

Eaton feels it has done its market research very thoroughly and has come to the conclusion that by 1990 a whole new range of heavy truck diesel engines will have been launched on to the world market by various

Aggressive moves

"But I do see people getting into certain niches. So that is another thing we have to do—make sure that as the various niches develop behind certain engines that we have a product that fits."

To achieve such a broad coverage, Eaton is working on the development of all types of heavy truck transmissions, from the relatively simple to those incorporating high technology: manual, semi-automatic and automatic.

But Eaton will not just be protecting its rear from the competition. It will aggressively move into territory where it has so far been relatively unobtrusive. Gillison admits: "One of our weaknesses is that we do not have such a broad product range as some of our competitors."

"But there is more room for us in their markets than there is for them in ours. So we have lots of offensive programmes. For example, automatic transmissions for smaller trucks. We will go for the mid-range transmissions as they tackle us at the heavy end."

Gillison agrees with those pundits who expect the truck industry to go through a shake-

out in the medium term. He suggests that by the year 2000 only 10 truck manufacturers will dominate world markets and that there will be opportunities for component suppliers as this narrowing down takes place. "We are well structured to take advantage of that change. If you are to take advantage of the technology you have to offer you must do it on a world-wide scale," he says.

There is, of course, a danger that the remaining truck groups might produce more of their own key components once the scale of their operations increases. At the moment some German groups like Daimler-Benz and the Scandinavians, Volvo and Scania, make their own transmissions and are therefore in competition with Eaton.

Again Gillison points to the technological base of Eaton's products. "Those truck companies which will make more in-house components will take those of low technology first."

"And even if you have the technology the cost is enormous. You need \$2m to put in the capacity for 1,000 axles or transmissions a year."

Eaton reckons it can face that if financial demand. Last year it had sales of \$3.4bn and a net income after tax of \$154m. It designs, engineers, manufactures and markets over 5,000 different products. It has 200 plants on five continents.

In the mid-1970s, around 30 per cent of its sales were accounted for by the heavy truck transmission business but recently Eaton has been busily buying its way to a broader base—particularly with the \$378.5m acquisition of the Cutler Hammer US-based multinational electronics group in 1978.

This does not indicate any lack of confidence in the business on which Eaton's fortunes have developed. According to E. M. "Del" de Windt, the chairman and chief executive: "We are an bullish long term about our transportation products as we have ever been. I think we are better positioned, better facilitated; we have stronger management and organisation than we have ever had."

"At the moment we are suffering from the economic cycle which hit us first in the U.S. and we are seeing signs of it moving into some of our international markets. But we are continuing to invest in plant, research and engineering and the allocation of capital is continuing with the same dedication and commitment that it has for the past 15 years."

The European connection has for some time been a two-way operation. For example, two medium-duty truck transmissions developed in the UK are to be used by Eaton in the U.S. now that the market for diesel-engined medium trucks is sharply increasing there.

As Gillison said, "where you make a product these days is much less important than the technology you build into it."

But this is more room for us in their markets than there is for them in ours. So we have lots of offensive programmes. For example, automatic transmissions for smaller trucks. We will go for the mid-range transmissions as they tackle us at the heavy end."

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Currently about 30 per cent of Eaton's total sales come from outside the U.S. and there are no plans to increase that as a matter of policy.

However, the development of the truck business around the world will probably involve

Eaton's truck components division with 20 per cent of sales outside North America, being more active outside the States than at home.

For example, Eaton is fighting hard to remain in South Africa as the government there contemplates how the commercial vehicle industry should be reshaped. There are some suggestions that Eaton's arch rival, ZF of Germany, might have an ideal position.

The fire at the factory

... while Lorne Barling shows how a small British company coped when its only premises were destroyed



Roger Randall: orders were completed by searching the debris for parts

upon its flexibility in providing staff had searched through the debris to find a particular seal or washer.

About 50 per cent of output is exported mainly to developing countries, but despite being a small company, it offers around 1,500 variations on a basic range of pumps based largely on Peirce, Lister and Perkins engines.

Randall's most vivid impression of his company in the crisis is that some people responded extremely well, switching from routine work to makeshift jobs with little trouble, while others were confused and could not adapt.

His own role, he suggests, was to make people believe he knew what he was doing and instill confidence. To this end he successfully ordered a short notice 150 hard hats, 500 pairs of gloves, sledgehammers, welding sets and waste skips and was lent a generating set by a local company. On Monday morning the employees set about cleaning up.

Now, three months after the event, the company is anxious that some of its customers, hearing about the extent of the fire, may worry about deliveries; apparently many have not noticed any difference so far, since initial recovery has been so successful.

This has been due more to management-inspired efforts of Herculean scale, rather than the limits of the damage. The company's main production building, housing the machine shop, fitting shop and paint plant, was completely destroyed at a cost estimated at £2m.

The blaze, which started on a Saturday afternoon and raged for 15 hours, was probably started by an electrical fault in the paint shop. Although vital stores of pump parts were engulfed, offices and records were saved.

The company has been able to maintain immediate deliveries by drawing on its previously high level of stocks, and by leasing a number of machine tools such as lathes and drills which were set up in one of the undamaged buildings to turn out essential parts.

However, the immediate problem for management, notably Godwin's managing director Roger Randall, and the chairman, Jeremy Lancaster, was how to ensure the survival of Godwin's, a company with a good profit record but highly dependent

on new machine tools. "We will obviously be needed, but there will be some reconditioned models to replace the older ones, since Randall fears that if the company's way of doing things is altered too severely, it could reduce its flexibility."

"We can start production of one pump and start on another in a matter of minutes; since we approach the market on a

broad front, we have to do things in this way. One of the biggest losses in the fire was our stock of parts, which ran into thousands of items, many specially made for us," Randall said.

UK customers were immediately told of the disaster and have been kept informed on progress. Only a very small number of contracts have been lost and orders continue to come in, but the worst of the delivery problems are occurring now, since the fire halted production of those goods due for despatch in August.

A £200,000 order, which has so far not been delayed, is for the supply of irrigation pump sets to Kampuchea. Other major markets include Nigeria, the Sudan, Chanci, Libya, and developing countries which need robust but relatively simple pumping equipment.

There seems little doubt now that the company will emerge from its crisis early next year with 10,000 sq ft of extra production space and a new factory, probably not perfect in layout but one which was achieved quickly and effectively.

The management has also learnt something about the company's strengths and weaknesses: the workforce (which has an extremely good record in terms of productivity and labour relations) is its major asset, and supplies of small parts are as vital as casting.

Wolseley-Hughes has confirmed its belief that Godwin's was a good acquisition, since its management is resilient and able to handle a crisis. Perhaps most important, Godwin's has learnt that its new parent company, previously regarded with some suspicion, is interested

not only in profits, but in the long-term future of the company.

As a result of everyone's hard work few delivery delays have occurred and the foundations of the new factory are in place, on a newly bought adjoining site. It was decided that less time would elapse in building from scratch than in having to clear the original site. The decision was helped by the swift go-ahead given by Frizzell, Godwin's founders; insurance will have covered a fair proportion of the replacement costs, although only on a like-for-like basis.

Jeremy Lancaster, for his part, immediately resisted any ideas that the whole operation should be moved to new premises at nearby Cirencester. He believed that Godwin's would not survive uprooting since it and its labour force are mutually dependent.

The company is in a fairly remote spot and people are very reliant upon it. We agreed very quickly that the only answer was a new factory," he said.

He therefore instructed Godwin's management to concentrate on meeting the demands of a full order book, however it could, while he looked after the construction problems. The company had a fairly large number of virtually completed pumps in stock at the time of the fire, which helped deliveries, but some could only be completed after

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Financial Times Wednesday August 20 1980

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Television

No time for the silly season

by ARTHUR SANDLES

The coincidence of headlines about industrial unrest in Poland, and chilling pictures from Granada's reconstruction of events in Czechoslovakia in 1968 (ITV last night) was all too ominous. The silly season is not quite as silly as it used to be. Or was it ever? Cynical observers of media history are apt to recall that both World Wars started in the so-called silly season. This year even the nonsense of the Glorious Twelfth, a traditional territory of retreat for desperate newsmen, was squeezed from the front pages by French fishermen, American politicians, British crime and, of course, the Polish workers. In a summer when Israel makes Jerusalem its capital and unemployment reaches record levels who can spare time or space for the traditional summer foolishness of British humanity?

In many ways therefore the decision of the BBC to ignore the silly season and continue its main current affairs programmes on through the summer was singularly well timed. In particular the continuation of *Newsnight* on BBC 2, a programme which is extraordinarily slotted at a time when insomniacs are seeking their nightly dose of horror movies, has proved a worthwhile gamble.

After the disarray of scarcely a year ago the BBC current affairs division has found its feet again. The setting up of *Newsnight* produced considerable strains on an organisation whose morale, thanks largely to overstretched corporation finances, was already low. The first months of *Newsnight* suggested that the battle may well have been for naught. More recently, however, it has been proving its worth, and notably during the coverage of U.S. political conventions.

The beaming in of sizeable chunks of Senator Kennedy's charismatic address to a patently captivated audience is but a sample of an audio-visual news wonderland which is beginning to open up. If you think there is already too much news, current affairs and documentary material on television, then you ain't seen nothing yet.

Communications satellites and light weight Electronic news-gathering equipment (the much



Red Army paratroopers burst into a Czech cabinet meeting in a scene from Granada's drama-documentary "Invasion".

television will have to put their money where their mouths now are.

But if there is a level beyond which we do not want to hear any more news then I doubt very much if we have reached it. British television companies are increasingly driven to use material produced by these crews regardless of its eventual value simply because the financial commitment has been made. The average Fleet Street newspaper newsdesk is almost profligate with its use of its own writing resources (and much more so with agency and freelance contributions) in the knowledge that by vast over-commissioning it will have the luxury of picking and choosing stories for the next day's paper. Already British television is in a position where it finds it difficult to make open-ended commitments to keeping crews abroad, for example, in the hope that eventually there will be a story.

The big question, of course,

is whether the British viewer actually wants more news and current affairs, whether in the summer or winter months. Do we all have an optimist information level at which we reach out and tune to *Sole of the Century*? That particular question will be put to the test within the next couple of years as the eager beavers who are so enthusiastic about breakfast

produce such thin coverage smacks of contempt for the viewing public—on the part of the network schedulers rather than ITN itself which would, I suspect, love more time.

One is led unerringly to the view that news, current affairs and documentary departments must be driven much closer together if the viewer is to be properly served. The BBC has

gone some way towards this. For ITV the task is vastly more difficult since ITN is normally only allowed to do news, and general feature work is left to the individual companies. If there is a demand for weekend reflection on current events as both newspapers and radio appear to believe there is, then ITV is certainly not equipped to meet it. The viewer is offered either lengthily researched and carefully prepared features of the World in Action ilk, or snappy ITN newscasts. If breakfast television changes all that then we may have some reason to cheer, although newspapers may have to look to their circulations.

In spite of all that carpings, however, for what is supposed to be a season for light-weight offerings, the past mid-August week has seen a reasonable crop of news and newsy material. It all culminated last night with Invasion. Granada's lengthy backwards look at Czechoslovakia and BBC 1's gentle toying with the subject of homeopathy.

The real prize must surely go, however, to the BBC 2 World About Us film on Sunday—Osprey. As an aloof viewer one could regard with disdain the near in people and most of the Royal Family who, we were assured, have made the trek to see these magnificent birds who have returned to Scotland after being harried away by Victorian ornithological enthusiasts. The filming was superb and Brian Jackman's script graphic but concise (even if the last few lines of moralising could have been cut without loss).

If the silly season is meant to be a time when we can reflect on things other than Westminster, then Osprey is the sort of stuff that summers should be made of.

Cottesloe

Line 'Em

by B. A. YOUNG

"National Theatre — injon-bashers" says the writing on the wall—the wall round the adjacent car-park, that is. But the pickets aren't at the stage-door, they're on the Cottesloe stage in Nigel Williams's new play. They are a legitimate six to begin with—Sam (Eric Mason), the true Party-member organiser; Chaser (Bob Grant), old and reluctant; Jacko (Jack Classics), who communicates only by means of anecdotes; Dolores ("Zoot" Money) and young Lon (Tony London), who have little to say; and Foreman (Dan Daniels) in his best Cockney, a loner who hates being persuaded to hate the side more.

Throughout the first act they try what to do if the Army comes to open the gates of the

factory. That is to say, they discuss more or less anything, in well-observed foul-mouthed language; Foreman in particular, who is even more talkative than the garrulous Jacko, can find matter in seagulls and O Levels and Fulham FC and his father to keep him rattling on, and one of Mr. Williams's main mistakes is that he believes that people would actually listen to him, especially when we are told that the strike has already been going on for ten weeks. Then, unifying such as decide to stay on the picket-line, and some don't, a jeep full of soldiers arrives on the scene.

Whoever has organised this military intervention has done it with little idea of how such things should be run. When the troops come—one officer, one

sergeant, four armed privates—their orders are simply to open the gates, although no trucks are expected for an hour. Having failed to do this by persuasion, they do it pointing their guns about. Initially this causes five of the original six pickets to desert, but we then come to the hit that Mr. Williams has obviously been working up to all the evening, when Foreman, who gives his name to the officer (and I can write this without embarrassment, for it is the name of a shop in the King's Road) as R. Soles, concentrates a barrage of insult on one of the soldiers. The soldier first threatens everyone with his rifle and then breaks down.

By the time the picket-line has been reduced to the single

person of Sam, and the sergeant has pushed the unlocked gates open, you'd think the Army had won. But no. There is a distant sound of heavy goods vehicles; Sam rallies his comrades, and the line re-forms across the open gates. What they do when the trucks come, escorted (as we are told they are) by police, is another matter, but Mr. Williams doesn't take his play that far.

Frankly I didn't believe a word of it. I didn't believe in the pickets or in the soldiers; they're about as convincing as Punc and Judy puppets. It was ego-rising to hear them wasting so much talent on such non-sense. Christopher Morahan is the director, and the design (tall metal gates in a tall metal fence) is by John Bury.

Chikovsky's early fantasia on The Tempest (written between the second and third

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EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Popp, Ousset, Gilels

The bread and butter of Edinburgh music-making is its morning and afternoon recitals. That is a rather plain way of describing the Monday morning concert (in the beautiful Queen's Hall, itself a festival experience for the visitor) by Lucia Popp, deftly and sensitively partnered by Geoffrey Parsons. The Czech singer, just now in her prime, has not always matched the various skills of the recitalist to the natural pleasures afforded by her bright, quick-speaking soprano; I remember a Wigmore Hall appearance, several years ago, in which the discrepancy between promise and fulfilment stretched disconcertingly wide.

Bread and butter describes

even less aptly the recital given by Cécile Ousset in the Freemasons' Hall yesterday morning.

In a programme of Chopin, Liszt, Debussy and Saint-Saëns, hardly a note did not sparkle;

Miss Ousset is a formidable

virtuoso, one of the most com-

pletely equipped pianists of the

day, and, more important, a

musician of precision and won-

derful gifts. Rare indeed to hear

Chopin (F minor Ballade, the

Andante spianato and Grande

Polonaise brillante), so truly

brilliant, devoid of sentimental

moosog, the polonaise rhythm

sprung as though its origin in

the dance had not been muffled

by a century and a half of

specious romanticism. There is

nothing in the least clouded

about Miss Ousset's virtuosity;

it is as clear as Mediterranean

sunshine, and quite as

exhilarating.

The programme on this occa-

sion was cleverly planned to

draw out without delay Miss

Popp's best qualities. Prokofiev

in Russian (though perhaps a

dramatic timbre was missed in

the low register), Kodaly in

Hungarian, and some heart-

easing Dvorak in the singer's

native tongue all found out the

Slavic plangency in the tone,

and allowed her ability to be

touching, sincere, and free of

artifice immediate expression.

The recital was in major part

a "folk" experience: the above

composers supplied settings of

folk songs, each in his own

imitative mode, and in the

second part Mahler and Brahms

each revealed their own quite

distinct and more complicated

attitudes to popular sources of

inspiration. It is a concert

singer and pianist should be

invited to repeat—slightly

lengthened, perhaps—in London, for it both cohered and delighted to an unusual degree.

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Savers and the house market

THE NEWS that the authorities are studying ways of attracting a much bigger flow of personal savings into the public sector, presumably through national savings instruments of one sort or another, is most welcome—as far as it goes. The question is, as it always is when policies in this market are reviewed, how far it is likely to go. Sooner or later, and usually sooner, somebody observes that any success is likely to be at the expense of the building societies, which might result in higher mortgage rates, and that is usually the end of the discussion. This time, the discussion ought to go further.

Lagged behind

The arguments for a new effort to build up small savings are compelling from the point of view of national financial management. Rising inflation and rising interest rates have led to far more than proportionate increases in both personal saving and public borrowing; but the public sector's access to small savings has lagged far behind this growth. As a result, the public sector has had to lean more and more heavily on the central capital markets, driving commerce and industry into the arms of the banks. This has been a major force accelerating the growth of the money supply, and has operated still more strongly as the current recession has deepened, paradoxically, since price constraints and falling sales have inflated distress borrowing.

Money supply

A really determined drive for personal savings could alter this picture radically. If the Government were able to reduce its gilts issues by, say, £2.2bn, it would take a far smaller proportion of the cash flow of the savings institutions. This should help to bring long-term interest rates down to the point where companies could begin to fund part of their bank indebtedness. This funding would contribute directly to the control of the money supply, deflating both the liabilities and the assets of the banking system without any resultant strains in the capital

markets. This "virtuous circle" of financing would in turn help to bring down short-term interest rates, helping both industry and mortgage holders.

Initially, of course, any success with national savings might be largely at the expense of building society deposits—though it should be remembered that the banks, too, are active bidders for personal savings. In an already depressed house market, it might seem perverse to tighten the supply of housing finance.

However, this issue needs to remain in perspective. Only a decade or so ago, the sum outstanding in national savings was roughly equal to the balance sheet of the building society movement—and as recently as 1968, the movement held a larger proportion of total personal savings. A few years of bipartisan efforts to protect house purchasers from the financial climate has transformed the balance; the building society balance sheet is now nearly four times that of the national savings movement. The present structure is the result of a massive distortion.

Mobility

The size of the distortion means that the balance cannot quickly be restored, but that is no reason not to make a determined start. One result of the recession is that the demand for mortgages has fallen more rapidly than the supply, so that some reduction in flow could be sustained. However, even an appeal to savers determined enough to create real stringency in the mortgage market would hardly be a disaster.

A break in house prices—a normal result of recession in most countries—might reduce the overwhelming appeal of property as an inflation hedge, but this would be no had thing for other markets. The houses would still be there, and lower prices would actually help our mobility. A measure that could bring substantial relief to industry at the cost of a little disappointment for house-owners—and might in the slightly longer run bring down mortgage rates—should not be shirked.

Plain sailing in Australia

THE AUSTRALIAN Treasurer, Mr. John Howard, has produced a budget showing great confidence in the future of both the country and of the Liberal-Country Party Government of Mr. Malcolm Fraser. Besides the expiry of an income tax surcharge, long planned for June 30 last, there are no obvious gifts to voters. That fits in with a widely held view making Mr. Fraser the favourite for the forthcoming elections. He must go to the country by March, but may do so as early as October.

Surplus

There are no increases of consumer excise taxes. For the corporate sector there are enhanced depreciation allowances which will not reach their full effect before the mid-1980s, though the yield of company tax is expected to rise quite steeply this year.

A main factor enabling Mr. Howard to table a budget with a tiny domestic surplus (though there is an overall deficit of A\$1.6bn or £780m if overseas transactions are added in) is the levy on home-produced oil. Australia produces about 70 per cent of the oil it uses, which is sold to consumers at world prices.

The price to producers is lower, the difference being mopped up by a levy which flows into the Commonwealth Treasury. In the financial year to June 30, 1980, that levy yielded A\$2.3bn. In the current year it should yield A\$2.2bn if the world price remains stable. If it rises, or falls, the yield of the levy would follow.

Oil is only a part of the Australian energy story. The country has 17 per cent of the world's easily accessible uranium, and the coal deposits are said to be enough for 1,000 years. So there is a base for rising exports of coal and for generating growing amounts of electricity. That prospect has encouraged the aluminium industry, with its great need for low-cost electric power, to plan a number of new ventures in Australia.

Inflation

Taking energy in all its forms, Australia is one of the few industrialised countries with a surplus available for export. In 1977 it came in 22 tonnes of oil equivalents for export. In 1978 it came in 22 tonnes of oil equivalents for export. In 1979 it came in 22 tonnes of oil equivalents for export. In 1980 it came in 22 tonnes of oil equivalents for export. In 1981 it came in 22 tonnes of oil equivalents for export.

THE RECENT spate of bad news from the UK motor industry has again raised the question: Are we at last witnessing the final death throes of Britain's car manufacturing business?

Vauxhall and Talbot last week announced further short-time working. There are currently lay-offs at BL and Ford plants. Ford has called for 2,300 redundancies and BL is to make a further 5,000 redundant soon, to take its total job cuts this year to 25,000.

The sales figures for the first ten days of August show imports taking a record 62 per cent of the total. Yet another price-cutting campaign by BL will be interpreted by some as a desperate measure in counter to this trend as well as to keep up cash flow.

Throughout the Western world, the motor industry has suffered from the expected cyclical downturn in demand and the unexpected change in the pattern of demand—towards smaller, less-thirsty cars—stimulated by the pickup in oil supplies following the Iranian revolution.

The first impact was felt in the U.S. where there have been widespread lay-offs since last autumn. These gradually spread throughout Europe where nearly all the manufacturers have been affected. There are also signs that the recession could even take the steam out of the Japanese industry later this year.

But a natural consequence of any severe recession is that the weaker companies suddenly find their weaknesses are very much in evidence.

The result is that the British car industry, with the possible exception of Ford, finds itself embarking on a life-or-death struggle.

The prospects for the UK industry as a whole are heavily dependent on the future of BL, possibly one of the weaker companies in the business and the last wholly-British-owned company in the industry.

BL, in spite of all the recent cutbacks, is still capable of making between 900,000 and 1m cars a year. It needs to retain that capacity to maintain any pretence of being a volume producer.

Any further cut in BL's capacity would reduce the company to a specialist car concern rather like BMW or Mercedes, but for the time being without the image to match.

The BL management is fighting to maintain that vital capacity level and a place among the world's "major" manufacturers (in spite of all that has happened in recent years, BL ranks seventh among Western European vehicle producers).

The key weapon in that fight—the new small car, the Metro—will be launched in October. Not only should the Metro give BL a boost in market share (needed as much as anything to lift morale within the company and among its UK dealers) but a successful launch of the new car would give the group a better chance of persuading the Government, its major

give the American dealers the increase in volume sales they need. The Metro does not qualify because it is to be powered by a revamped version of the old "A" series engine, which cannot be produced economically to meet the U.S. emission standards.

Ford has begun to implement

these dramatic changes. BL is also on target with its massive programme of job cuts and accompanying changes in working practices aimed at improving productivity.

In spite of past threats by Henry Ford that the group would quit Britain, all the evidence points to Ford's determination to stay.

Ford has always argued that it planned its European organisation. But it could still be said that Ford needs the UK

Any more cuts would reduce BL to a specialist concern

ing will become much more difficult and competitive because the developing countries, which offer the fastest-growing markets, will demand at least local assembly by any manufacturer interested in building up business.

So BL needs a "home" market as big as the EEC—not just Britain—if it is to claw its way back from last year's output of 504,000 cars towards the 1m mark again.

As for productivity, BL hopes to show what can be done at the reshaped Longbridge plant where, if the targets are achieved, output per man would reach Japanese standards by 1981.

Like BL, Ford is relying heavily on robots to help improve productivity. Within three years Ford will have between 350 and 500 robots in its European plants—to encourage managers to switch to automation, the required return on investment for these projects has been cut by one-third.

Mr. Bill Hayden, Ford Europe's vice-president of manufacturing, has given a warning to the unions that Ford, and other European car companies, have about six years in which to improve productivity—or we will be inefficient and the Japanese will kill us.

Mr. Hayden says that plans are being drawn up on the basis of a drop of 40 per cent in the time lost in labour disputes at the UK plants. Ridding the shopfloor of demarcation rows and vastly improving the flexibility of labour are at the heart of the changes Ford wants to introduce.

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Ford is relying on robots to improve productivity

as much as the UK needs Ford. Even in this recessionary year car sales in Britain are forecast to reach 1.5m, well below 1979's 1.71m but still the third-best since 1973 and 250,000 above the 1974-77 average. The UK therefore remains a major European market (topped only by Germany, 2.62m and France, 1.976m in 1979) and the one where Ford has the biggest share.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders recently summed up the reasons for the decline of the UK motor industry—again for a committee of MPs.

It blamed "the use by my Government in the latter part of the 1960s of the industry as a regulator for the economy, which resulted in an artificial contraction of its home market and a consequent lack of profitability, which prevented generation of capital for investment in modernisation and new models."

"A high level of industrial unrest, already in the 1960s but particularly severe in the 1970s which resulted in lack of profitability, low productivity, unsatisfactory quality and failure to meet agreed delivery schedules."

And the gradual removal of tariff protection from the British home market at a time when the industry's competitive position was being weakened by its role as an economic regulator and by industrial unrest."

Governments no longer attempt to fine tune the economy by changing the terms of

hire purchase on cars. The removal of tariff protection within the EEC has been completed.

What remains to be tackled is the question of industrial unrest in the UK industry and low productivity. It is particularly important that BL and Ford get these sorted out.

There are increasing indications that employees in the industry are taking a more realistic view of the ability of any company to withstand the effects of perpetual industrial strife. How much or how quickly this attitude will change during the next upswing in demand remains to be seen.

As for Talbot UK, its future

MEN AND MATTERS

Amdahl's back on the circuit

Ten years ago, Gen. Amdahl walked out of IBM after a 14-year career in which he rose to become director of advanced computer systems, to start the fast-growing California computer company which bears his name. Now, after a year of ill health which forced him to relinquish executive duties at Amdahl Corporation and come to London for medical treatment, he plans to return to the fray with another new company and, he says, a host of willing backers.

The growth of Amdahl Corporation over the last decade from a fledgling in 1970 to \$14.4m sales in 1975 to \$300m sales in 1979 is an undeniably impressive testimony to Amdahl's abilities. But is he葺ing to do? In 1979, he was still the prime of his life, and he is up at the crack of dawn every morning to monitor BBC radio's *Thought for the Day*.

There is, Amdahl claims, amity between himself and his namesake company, from which he resigned as consultant and chairman *emeritus* on Friday.

The decision to start the new company came, Amdahl tells me, during his period of enforced rest. "I began thinking, because I didn't have anything else to occupy my mind. I didn't have much stock in Amdahl and there were lots of things which, if I were given the chance to start again, I would do differently." The still unnamed venture will, he promises, have "an orientation much more towards what I think is optimal for the future." It will, he says, be turning out very large high-performance computers particularly suited to scientific calculations.

Amdahl brings with him his former senior vice-president and chief financial officer, Clifford Madden. The present base is Sunnyvale, but Amdahl is eyeing the incentives offered by most European nations to new high-technology businesses. The company will, he says, start out life on a relatively small scale, with hacking from "people with

related interests" supplementing his own considerable investment.

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Plane cooking

The critical evaluation of in-flight catering by the Egon Ronay Organisation last year poses a challenge to the food industry now descending upon the Civil Aviation Administration of China. The People's Daily reports that those who dare to

morning mini-sermons. There is a forceful clique of advisers, for example, which believes that Ministers (of the lay variety) should be given air time to reply to politico-religious talk.

And then there are others at the DoE of a more receptive turn of mind: like the Ministry discussion group which asked Canon Beeson if he would care to call in to enlarge to them upon his broadcast views.

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unrest in the UK industry and low productivity. It is particularly important that BL and Ford get these sorted out.

There are increasing indications that employees in the industry are taking a more realistic view of the ability of any company to withstand the effects of perpetual industrial strife. How much or how quickly this attitude will change during the next upswing in demand remains to be seen.

As for Talbot UK, its future

hire purchase on cars. The removal of tariff protection within the EEC has been completed.</

Iran's Mullahs tighten grip—for now

"WE WANT Islam, we want nothing but Islam," Ayatollah Khomeini said recently attacking all politicians and officials who have tried to rule Iran since the overthrow of the Shah 18 months ago. The revolution, he says, was not about houses or jobs or any material goal. Its martyrs died on the barricades in Tehran, as they do today in the mountains of Kurdistan, to build the first truly Islamic State on earth.

To establish the reality of this vision nationalists, radical Moslem democrats like President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, progressives, left-wingers and communists are being driven from the field. Their party offices and newspapers are being closed and their supporters purged from the civil service and army. A record of resistance to the Shah counts for little. The discreet politician who asked about his policy is wise to say that he adheres to the Imam's line, Imam not Ayatollah being the universal title for Khomeini in Iran.

Unbelievable though it may seem in the West, to the poor of Iran, everything that has happened in the past two years seems good evidence that the Imam is defended and inspired by God. The Shah flees within a year of the first demonstrations, his Chieftain tanks and Phantom jets are useless, military conspiracies are unmasked, U.S. helicopters crash in fortuitous dust storms. More vulgarly put, he gets all the blame.

While Ayatollah Khomeini lives, there is a limit to the amount any opposition can do. The middle class of Tehran, including the civil servants, and the outlying provinces distrust him, but everywhere else his personal prestige and authority is enormous. When he denounced the main progressive Moslem organisation, the Muhammadi-e-Khalq, a party which could send a quarter of a million demonstrators into the streets of Tehran without difficulty, it closed its offices. The

PATRICK COCKBURN, just returned from Tehran, examines the state of Iran's revolution and poses the question of whether the shift of power towards the Mullahs is permanent

near rebellion in Azerbaijan last year collapsed primarily because the demonstrators would not oppose Ayatollah Khomeini.

Does this mean that Iran is now a theocratic state ruled by 200,000 Mullahs with the mosque the true centre of authority? Does the dominance of the clergy-led Islamic Republican Party (IRP) in Parliament reflect the true balance of power in Iran?

For some of the Mullahs the question is worrying. What, they ask, happens after Ayatollah Khomeini dies? They know that side by side with its popularity there is a mounting tide of anti-clericalism which is not confined to the educated and the middle class. Gratifying though it is for many of the clergy to bask in the reflected authority of their leader, will this last after his death? Ayatollah Khomeini himself seems to be vaguely aware of the problem. For 300 years, he said last month, the clergy were told to stick to teaching and the mosque and keep out of politics; many now have rescinded by turning full time politicians.

It is true that the central thrust of the attack on the Shah in 1978 came from the mosque. As he sat in exile in Iraq and later Paris the very elusiveness of Ayatollah Khomeini's views enabled him to become the focus of a very diverse opposition movement. Organisation of demonstrations was largely spontaneous. All people needed to know was that the "Islamic Republic" was the opposite of the Shah's regime to shout in their millions for its creation.

The difficulty is that most of

the Iranian clergy are not truly "revolutionary" in the sense that Ayatollah Khomeini is. A catch phrase of the western media is to the effect that "Khomeini is bringing Iran back to the fourteenth century." Nothing could be more misleading. His sectarian Islamic populism has few parallels in Moslem history in Iran or anywhere else. This partly explains its potency. The sense of cultural inferiority, an aspect of which was the Shah'sping of the West, is replaced by the certitude of a revived Islam.

The wealthy, Government bureaucrats, the powerful of all sorts are denounced as "Satanic," barred by their very nature from an egalitarian community of the faithful.

In the socially and culturally fractured countries of the Moslem world his ideology allows the most reactionary Mullah from an up-country village to unite with dissident intellectuals with degrees from Yale and the Sorbonne against the powers that be.

Yet Khomeini remains a curiously isolated figure within the Iranian clergy. Many, such as the Islamic Republican Party, have been happy to fold his cloak around them. The other ruling Ayatollahs of the Shi'ite hierarchy have fallen silent. Even those who depend on Khomeini often find they are riding a tiger of whose direction they are uncertain.

The Islamic Republican Party has now successfully imposed a new Prime Minister on President Bani-Sadr. It will nominate most of the new cabinet. Every day its power increases as the civil service, army and profes-

sions are purged of its enemies. IRP leaders, such as Ayatollah Beheshti and Hojatolislam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, are msninly clergymen. The question of whether Iran will be a theocratic state after the death of Ayatollah Khomeini will primarily depend on their success.

Their rise to power has been rapid. The moderate nationalists of Mehdi Bazargan's Government were destroyed by the occupation of the U.S. embassy in Tehran last November. Rather to their surprise they discovered that Ayatollah Khomeini did not believe that the revolution was over. Indeed he said it had hardly begun.

Having won the Presidential election Mr. Bani-Sadr attempted to synthesise his vision of a modern state well serviced with technocrats with the concept of an Islamic Republic. It did not work. Why has nothing changed 18 months after the Shah fled, the leader of the revolution asked him in June? If the \$50,000 civil servants did not like the Islamic Republic, and most of them do not, then they could be replaced.

The universities were finally closed at the beginning of June. A month later, after an abortive coup was crushed, the purge of the army was speeded up so 64 officers have been executed so far. Revolutionary institutions such as the revolutionary guards and special courts are taking over, replacing what was inherited from the Shah.

Radio, television and most of the newspapers are run by IRP supporters. Their coverage of news is highly selective. Local reports of the arrest of Iranian students demonstrating in London recently left the impression that Gengis Khan had been appointed Metropolitan police commissioner.

Indeed if there is one development on which nearly all Iranians are united it is on the inferior quality of their radio and television. Recent features included two hours a night of



Islamic clergymen armed with automatic rifles march in front of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

excerpts from the world Koran reading competition in Malaysia.

Last year Mr. Sadeq Qotbzadeh, then head of television and latterly Foreign Minister, infuriated viewers by interrupting programmes to deliver himself of hour-long speeches. He met demands for his dismissal by showing petitions for his retention signed by hundreds of thousands. Some doubt was thrown on the accuracy of these documents when he received just 47,000 votes in the Presidential election.

In addition to this control of the media the Islamic Republican Party uses the mosque as the centre of its power and influence. Sermons reach a far wider audience than the Press as the Shah discovered to his cost. To obtain permission to set up almost any local organisation in Iran today a letter from the mosque is needed and this can be obtained only through the IRP.

Despite all this the party's power is insecure. Though Ayatollah Khomeini has attempted to remain above the faction fighting, it depends too much on his support. They also fear that now they control the Government they too may become the target for his

enemies now. So long as they did not hold power they could steal the political clothing of Left and Right at will in order to gain popularity. They could follow the Imam's line where ever it led. In power themselves they will be an easier target for their numerous but disparate enemies. Disputes between their own radicals and conservatives will diminish

So far the unskilled workers in town and country have extracted major economic benefits from the revolution. Their wages, assuming they hold a job, have risen three or four times. For those who do not mind being paid in unconvertible rials there is a vast market for fridges, air-conditioning and even televisions. "I used to make 200 rials a day before the revolution, now I make 800, and I am glad the Shah is dead," remarked one lahouther from the south of the city, neatly coupling it at all.

his economic condition and political views. It will be extremely difficult for the IRP to cut the wages. Attempts to do so have met a militant response.

In south Tehran the dissatisfaction is greatest among the unemployed. One million Iranians, almost 10 per cent of the labour force, were employed in the construction sector in 1978. It is now almost totally stagnant. Some of these are still being paid even though they are not working. A massive housing programme would sop up much of the unemployment and meet a desperate social need. But there is a shortage of cement and steel already and much of this would have to be purchased from abroad.

This highlights a key problem the IRP will have to solve. Unable to cut back on wages, needing to expand the economy, it requires foreign exchange for imports which can only come from oil exports. Technically exports could be raised to 2.25 barrels a day, but by raising its price so high in April Iran cut itself out of many markets.

Politically the leading clergy of the IRP need to crush their enemies now. So long as they did not hold power they could steal the political clothing of Left and Right at will in order to gain popularity. They could follow the Imam's line where ever it led. In power themselves they will be an easier target for their numerous but disparate enemies. Disputes between their own radicals and conservatives will diminish

President Bani-Sadr has made clear to his friends that he wants no responsibility for the acts of the new administration. Instead he will try to act as something of an alternative government, sometimes a parallel power. The IRP needs to stop this by reducing him to a complete figurehead and destroying all other opposition organisations. Either the party monopolises power completely or it will find it difficult to hold it at all.

Gas costs for industry

From the Deputy Chairman, British Gas Corporation

Sir.—Mr. W. Waldegrave, MP (August 14), comments on "High energy costs" in a reasoned and unemotional way.

British Gas has consistently said that it is extremely difficult to establish one way or the other the real gas prices on the Continent in a reliable and comparable form. The variation in the movement and timing of contracts both here and abroad provide the possibility of using the data selectively to prove any particular case.

It must, however, be recognised that British Gas has to operate in the UK climate of energy price and has a duty to ensure that gas is not under valued and thereby wasted. Its market related pricing policy has ensured that gas has been used for those purposes which make the most of its flexibility, cleanliness and controllability.

The present renewal prices for firm gas on contract will still be considerably cheaper than any of its competitors. To reduce those prices would cause, as has already been experienced, a demand largely for replacement of old products, which could not be met, and would thereby restrict supplies to those processes where gas is really essential.

This pricing policy has been followed, consistently since the introduction of natural gas over ten years ago. This was not the case in many other countries, but there are strong indications that gas prices on the Continent will rise pretty soon.

We understand, for example, that the Russians and the Algerians are quoted as asking \$6 per million btu's (about 25.5/therm) for new supplies; the Dutch are strongly seeking a substantial increase in their export price and the Norwegians are said to be asking for gas oil related prices.

It seems, therefore, that Continental gas prices will increase substantially in the near future.

As Mr. Waldegrave points out, for us to get ourselves into American type energy problems, at a time when they are desperately trying to get out of them, hardly seems the correct course for the UK.

J. H. Smith

Rivermill House,

152, Grosvenor Road, SW1.

Letters to the Editor

Ministers should check the credibility of information quoted in the House and not use figures overstated by nearly 37 per cent.

P. Spivey

Scharrenbrouckstr. 73,

5064 Rösrath, West Germany.

Monetary parable

From the Technical Officer, Chartered Institution of Building Services

Sir.—Samuel Brittan's article of August 7, "A boney parable on monetary muddle," drew an analogy between the monetary system and a heating and ventilating system. While the Chartered Institution of Building Services makes no claim to be an authority on economics, we do possess some expertise in systems of the latter type.

A heating and ventilating system may be controlled in either of two ways. Automatic control, often achieved using thermostats, causes an automatic reduction in heat supply when a sensor registers a temperature higher than a pre-determined value. With this type of control, thermostats are unnecessary except as a means of reassuring occupiers of the heated (and ventilated) space that the system is working correctly. Placing ice round thermometer bulbs has no effect on the system. Manual control is effected by employing an operator (Denis, Geoffrey or Tony) to monitor temperature using thermometers, and to adjust heat supply as necessary to achieve the same end of comfortable environment. In this case, the thermometer is of great importance. By placing ice around its bulb, Gordoo cunningly deluded. In turn, Tony, Denis and Geoffrey by creating the impression that the environment was more comfortable than the occupiers' own senses told them.

In both automatically and manually controlled systems, heat supply is often adjusted by varying fuel input. There the analogy becomes shaky since the "fuel input" to a monetary system is made up of a number of contributions, such as market demand, wage demands and dividend demands.

The view of CIBS on the suggested remedies would be as described below.

The suggestion by Gordon's millions that the thermometer mercury levels should be manually controlled amount to an extension of the self-delusion instigated by placing ice around the bulbs. The same could be said of the suggestions that various other types of thermometer could be used, but mercury thermometers at ± 1 degree C are accurate enough.

The counsel of rival engineers that the system should be replaced could be acceptable, provided the management and occupiers are prepared for the expense and upheaval when the equipment is replaced. Care, however, must be exercised in the choice of new equipment and in the choice between manual and automatic control. The latter would be favoured for a very sophisticated system.

The present system could be retained, provided care was exercised in its operation. Fuel input, and hence heat supply, should be reduced until a temperature is reached which takes up substantial road space and which must travel slowly for

safety reasons should not pay a fair contribution to the construction and maintenance of our road system.

J. H. Bescoby

University of Cape Town, Department of Business Science, Private Bag, Rondebosch 7700, Cape, Republic of South Africa.

Encouraging the natives

From Mr. G. Henwood

we have had much comment on the Government's options for purchasing various major items of equipment, e.g. the PAYE computer system; air traffic surveillance radar; light communications/training aircraft for the RAF, and so on. Generally these come down to a choice between American products or the native equivalent.

On the whole, the performance of these devices is comparable, irrespective of their origin and any expressed preference has usually been based on alleged earlier availability and/or lower price.

There is no such thing as the alleged "huge protected home market." The American market for computer equipment is wide open to companies wherever based who are willing to invest in marketing, support and engineering infrastructure. We point to Nixdorf, Norsk Data, Northern Telecom, Hitachi, Fujitsu, BASF and Racial as examples of non-American companies who have prospered in the American marketplace. These organisations have not tried to sell a nation-wide market from a single sales office in New York and have been willing to bet resources against potential revenues.

The "large scale Government contracts underpinning research" are another admirable feature of action. The matter has been discussed at great length elsewhere, particularly by Dr. Robert Noyce of Intel. It is also worth pointing out that IBM alone spends over \$1.3bn of its own money in R&D. It and most other high technology companies understand the constant need for research money without which no new products appear.

Is ICL so scared of open tenders that it must resort to ancient and thoroughly disproven allegations to win a bid? Philip H. Dorn

25 East 86th Street.

New York, NY 10028.

Covered wagons

From Mr. J. Bescoby

Sir.—John Philip's article on caravans (Covered Wagons, August 2) raises wider issues than insurance. I frequently travel the section of the M5 between Birmingham and Bristol and on Friday evenings in summer many motorists can be seen towing caravans on the southbound carriageway. As this is a two lane motorway the caravans contribute substantially to the delays and frustrations on what is already a busy holiday route and I have often wondered why these vehicles are afforded the privilege of paying no special tax. Other road vehicles pay according to road, size or weight but caravans appear to be an exception.

I am in no sense "anti-caravan", but I do not understand why vehicles which take up substantial road space and which must travel slowly for

UK: Trades Union Congress general council meets, will hear Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and Electrical Electronic Telecommunications and Plumbers Union of Grain power station workers dispute.

Overseas: International Fair opens at Izmir, Turkey (until September 30).

LUNCHTIME MUSIC, London

Metropolitan Police Band concert, Finsbury Circus Gardens, noon.

Prudential cricket trophy one-day match, England v Australia, at the Oval.

One room living exhibition opens at the Design Centre, Haymarket, London (until December 13).

Today's Events

Overseas: International Fair

opens at Izmir, Turkey (until September 30).

LUNCHTIME MUSIC, London

Metropolitan Police Band concert, Finsbury Circus Gardens, noon.

Prudential cricket trophy one-day match, England v Australia, at the Oval.

Organ recital by Peter Newell, St. Bride's, Fleet Street, 1.15 pm.

COMPANY MEETINGS

Antofagasta Railway, Winchester House, 100 Old Broad Street, EC. 12.15. Dom Holdings, London Brick.

ment gives details of new construction orders for June.

Department of Employment pub-

lishes indices of average earnings for June and indices of basic rates of wages for July.

Central Statistical Office issues second quarter second preliminary estimate of consumers' expenditure.

OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Department of the Environ-

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LASMO leaps £17.5m to top £20m midway

BY RAY DAFTER, ENERGY EDITOR

London and Scottish Marine Oil, which yesterday reported a pre-tax profit of £20.38m for the first half of this year as against £2.8m in the corresponding period of 1979, is switching much of its North Sea crude sales from the spot market because of weakening oil prices.

Mr. Hector Wotts, managing director and chief executive said that more than three-quarters of LASMO's North Sea output was now being sold through term deals, involving periods of six to 24 months. The rates for these deals were more attractive.

Prices on the spot market had fallen to \$3.54 a barrel below the \$35.95 a barrel contract rate paid by British National Oil Corporation for Ninian Field state participation crude.

"We have not sold any of our production below the BNOC term price; neither do we expect to," he said.

Total oil production from the Ninian Field—where LASMO has its main producing asset—was 37.5 million barrels in the first half of the year; the equivalent of 208,000 barrels a day.

Mr. Robert Fox, managing director for exploration and production, disclosed that LASMO was heavily involved in the bidding for seven round exploration licences on the UK Continental Shelf. The company had submitted applications for a "considerable number" of blocks as a member of several consortia.

In view of the higher production rate and the possibility of further oil price rises later this year, directors expect improved profits in the current half year.

In 1979 the group recovered from losses of £10.75m to a pre-tax £23.4m profit of which £20.9m was attributable to Ninian production. The board reported that on present indications, the deficit on the profit and loss account, carried forward from previous years, should be eliminated by the end of the year. LASMO bank loans should be further reduced.

Turnover for the first half year was £17.52m from £17.52m in 1979. In £49.92m. Taxation took £11.03m (£25.7m) giving earnings per share of 12.72p compared with 2.7p. The result for the first six months of 1979

HIGHLIGHTS

Lex briefly considers the squeeze on the money markets before moving on to the company news of the day. LASMO has come up with a pre-tax rise from £2.8m to £20.3m as the Ninian Field moves into full production, but spot selling prices for crude have been weakening. Ocean Transport and Trading's profits have jumped from £6.6m to £16.7m largely thanks to a sharp recovery in Nigerian trading and good prices in bulk carriers. Lex also looks at the Australian budget which lacks any gimmick despite the forthcoming election and finally considers the figures from De Beers. On the inside pages there is news of Shackleton Petroleum's London listing while profits from Smith and Nephew are marginally ahead and there is word of proposals to sell the loss-making cosmetics business.

have been restated to include the newly acquired Oil Exploration group.

Total capital expenditure, which was £30.5m in 1979, amounted to £35.4m in the first half of this year. This year's investment included £10.7m for the Ninian development and £9.2m for the purchase of further oil and gas leases in the U.S.

Mr. Robert Fox, managing director for exploration and production, disclosed that LASMO was heavily involved in the bidding for seven round exploration licences on the UK Continental Shelf. The company had submitted applications for a "considerable number" of blocks as a member of several consortia.

In two groups LASMO has been chosen as the operator. At least one of the LASMO-operated bids has been submitted for a block in the self-selection area of the North Sea where licensees will have to pay the Government a premium of £5m per concession.

Directors believe that the company is reasonably successful in its seventh round applications. It could be involved in the drilling of 10 to 15 exploration wells over the next few years.

It was also disclosed that the company was discussing with the Department of Energy plans for the development of the Tiffey/Thelma-Toni complex of reservoirs in the Phillips group's "T block." As planned the first oil is scheduled to be produced

from the block in the mid-1980s. However, Mr. David Howell, Energy Secretary, has said he may delay the development as part of the Government's depleting policy. LASMO is to submit a paper to the Energy Department explaining why it feels that the "T block" should be exploited without delay. "We are obviously anxious to avoid any delay to the development of this field," the head said.

The "T block" is expected to contain an important junction of the Government's planned gas gathering pipeline network. It is understood that offshore engineers have been investigating the possibility of building oil production and gas gathering platform facilities in close proximity, perhaps linked by a bridge. There is a possibility that the two projects—the Tiffey Field development and the gas gathering network—could share common accommodation and support facilities.

LASMO also reported that well 16/27a on the Andrew Field had been temporarily suspended at final depth to allow maintenance and repairs to be undertaken to the drilling rig. It was then planned to re-enter the hole and carry out a testing programme.

The award of an onshore production licence in the Constance-Esk area of Scotland was still awaited. LASMO also had a 36 per cent interest in an application for an exploration licence in the South of England. Here the company has an option to be the operator.

Lex, Back Page

Woodhouse & Rixson improves

DESPITE INTEREST charges up by £130,000 to £270,000, pre-tax profits at Woodhouse and Rixson (Holdings), forseemaaker, advanced from £274,000 to £366,000 in the half-year to June 30, 1980. Turnover was £9.25m compared with £7.16m.

The interim dividend has been cut from 1.21092p to 0.8p, but the board says this has been done to preserve resources. Last year's total was 1.73855p from pre-tax profits of £146,000 (£42,000). It is hoped to return to the 1978 level of dividend—a total of 2.18106p was paid—as soon as possible, and it is also hoped to resume the payments of equal interim and final dividends this financial year.

The first half profit was achieved because of good demand for the company's more technically advanced products, lower overheads and improved productivity. The directors say the present level of activity at most operations is fair, though some

areas are becoming short of work.

The company is working on the assumption that demand will decline for the rest of this year, but that orders for some of the specialised products it manufactures will remain good.

After tax of £139,000 (£42,000), stated earnings per 12p share are 2.5p against 2.3p.

• comment

The reduction of the dividend to "preserve resources" says more about the outlook at Woodhouse and Rixson than the 44 per cent interim rise at the pre-tax level. True, the prospective yield is still an attractive 15 per cent plus at 18p, up 1p yesterday, but the apparent level of profitability is a long way short of 1978 levels. More importantly, the group looks to have been a major beneficiary of BSC's first-quarter strike. Woodhouse and Rixson's open die forgings and rolled rings and Crocker's lami-

nated springs compete directly with BSC and, after several months' absence from the marketplace, it is a fair bet that the Corporation will be striving to recapture its previous share of a declining market at cut-throat prices. The group's profits, moreover, tend to lag the business cycle and, although short time working is becoming more widespread in the special steels industry, there is no obvious sign yet that de-stocking has started in earnest. There may be enough steam to keep second-half profits up to a reasonable level, but, with important customers in the motor and aerospace industries now cutting their schedules right back, the outlook for 1981 and beyond cannot be bright. The moves to divest and thus release cash (the head office is on the market) are undoubtedly well-timed but it is questionable whether they will be enough to preserve the essential income support for the shares.

This advertisement appears as a matter of record only.

SHACKLETON PETROLEUM CORPORATION

(A limited company incorporated under the laws of the Province of British Columbia)

Issue of 10,500,000 shares without par value fully paid at C\$1.00 per share

These shares have been placed in conjunction with the listing of the issued share capital of 11,922,002 shares on the Vancouver Stock Exchange.

JAMES CAPEL & CO.

F. H. DEACON HODGSON INC.

MIDLAND DOHERTY LTD.

هذا العمل

Smith and Nephew rises 5%

FOLLOWING THE improvement from £4.98m to £5.13m in the first 12 weeks, pre-tax profits of Smith and Nephew Associated Companies moved further ahead to reach £10.55m for the 24 weeks to June 14, 1980, some 5 per cent higher than last year's corresponding figure of £10.04m.

The result was struck after a rise in interest charges from £1.88m to £1.53m, which was partly offset by an increased share of associates' profits of £1.93m (£0.84m).

The directors say discussions are in progress for the possible sale of the group's worldwide cosmetics business in the Mary Quant, Outdoor Girl and Miners brands.

The net interim dividend is stepped up from 12.5p to 13p per 10p share—last year's total was 3.65p on pre-tax profits of £2.15m.

Tax for the 24 weeks took

£5.63m from U.S. subsidiary Aochor Continental Inc.

The group's principal activities are the manufacture and sales of medical health care, personal hygiene products, toiletries and cosmetics, medical, textile and plastic and tape products.

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£2.15m.

Tax for the 24 weeks took

to first half sales and showed a

small profit after financing charges. Group exports gained 17 per cent by value, notably through improvements in Africa and the Middle East. The attribution of half of British Tissue's profit following the purchase of Wiggins-Teape's 25 per cent share in June, contributed about half of the more than doubled income from associated companies. Much of the rest came from the fast-growing Mexican associate. The 4 per cent rise in the dividend is disappointing but the group is unlikely to provide more until its financial position improves. A similar rise at the final would mean that the shares at 78p unchanged, yield a prospective 7 per cent.

• comment

Smith and Nephew is man-

aging to show small increases in

sales volume despite the reces-

sion but continued high interest

charges are stifling profit growth.

The proposed disposal of

the cosmetics division, which has

annual sales of £13m and made

a small loss in the first half,

will not make much difference to

the debt level (about 50 per cent

of shareholders' funds) if it goes

through. The U.S. acquisition,

Anchor Continental, added £8.6m

to first half sales and showed a

small profit after financing

charges. Group exports gained

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share in June, contributed about

half of the more than doubled

income from associated compa-

nies. Much of the rest came

from the fast-growing Mexican

associate. The 4 per cent rise

in the dividend is disappoint-

ing but the group is unlikely to

provide more until its financial

position improves. A similar rise

at the final would mean that the

shares at 78p unchanged, yield a

prospective 7 per cent.

BOARD MEETINGS

The following companies have notified dates of Board meetings to the Stock Exchange. These meetings are usually held for the purpose of considering dividends. Official dividends are not available as to whether dividends are interim or final and the subdivisions shown below are based mainly on last year's timetable.

TODAY

International Investment Trust, Johnson Group Cleaners, London

British-Belgian-Polish-Romanian Consolidated Mines, Scottish and European Textiles.

FUTURE DATES

Interim—

Genie-Consolidated Industries Sept. 18

Dickinson, Robinson Sept. 22

Fairclough Construction Sept. 21

McGraw-Hill (Holdings) Sept. 21

Scotian-North Am. Trust Aug. 28

Finals—

Barker and Dobson Aug. 29

Calcutta: Electric Supply Cor-

poration (India) Aug. 21

Hunt & Moscrop (Middleton) Aug. 25

Spills

profits

unchara

Profits before tax of Ocean Transport and Trading jumped from £6.8m to £16.7m in the first six months of 1980 and came close to the £19.7m achieved for all of 1979.

The interim dividend is lifted from 4.04p to 4.5p. Stated earnings per share are 10.78p compared with 5.34p.

The half year profit is after interest of £19.9m (£17.2m), profit on disposal of ships, £0.6m (20.6m) of associates and £0.7m against £7.6m.

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SHACKLETON PETROLEUM FLOAT

New energy ideas in vogue

BY JOHN MAKINSON

The demand for new energy ideas seems inexhaustible. Shackleton Petroleum is the latest innovation, and its shares moved from 55p to 70p yesterday.

The company is an off-shore oil of Czar Resources, a Canadian group which specializes in exploring for oil and gas in areas which have been abandoned by the oil majors. Shackleton has been floated under the Stock Exchange rule for foreign companies, 163 (ie), on the back of Czar's sound, if predatory, record.

James Capel has orchestrated the placement of 10.5% Shackleton shares representing 88 per cent of the issued capital, at £1.50 per share. The bulk of the issue has been placed with UK institutions. The arrangement gives Shackleton 12.1 per cent of all new drilling and exploration programmes undertaken by Czar in Canada, and a 20 per cent interest in the U.S.

Shackleton will pay drilling and exploration costs in direct relation to its holding and will then obtain an 80 per cent interest in revenues and development costs. The remaining 20 per cent will go to Czar, in return for its commitment to locate and manage oil and gas prospects.

Czar claims that the advantage of an investment in Shackleton is that it offers an entry into a successful exploration company at low risk and low cost. The risk is relatively small, it says, because Czar operates only in on-shore areas



Mr. Robert W. Lamond of Czar Resources and Mr. Ashley Down of James Capel at the London Press conference

which are likely to have proven or probable reserves. Equally, however, the reward is generally limited since the oil majors will have rejected the sites as being insufficiently productive.

Czar earns its living either by making a rejected property commercial or by disclosing larger reserves than had initially been discovered. It has so far drilled 421 wells in North America with an overall success rate of about 77 per cent. At present, Shackleton has an interest in 29 wells, of which 12 have development potential and 16 are still being drilled.

The cost of the operation should be small because Shackleton abrogates all management functions to a company called Aurora Energy Fund and all responsibility for exploration

in Czar. Aurora receives a fee for its management role, together with a share option deal, while Czar gets 20 per cent of Shackleton's stake in any producing property.

The Shackleton idea may be new to London but it represents familiar territory for Czar. Masterminded by a geologist, Robert Lamond, the company has tapped funds in Canada and West Germany along similar lines.

A change in local tax regulations has made the German connection more tenuous but Czar is already looking at a scheme similar to Shackleton in the Netherlands. In the first quarter of next year Czar hopes to raise around US\$20m in connection with a listing on the American Stock Exchange (Amex), all possibly can."

part of a strategy to seek £200m over the next three years from outside interests. Shackleton is almost certain to form part of these plans.

The Amerex listing lies in with Czar's aim of obtaining half its income and funding from the U.S. Exploration companies in Canada operate in an uncertain political climate, highlighted by the current law and war between Ottawa and Alberta, and geographical diversification makes defensive sense.

At the moment, however, Czar's heavy involvement in Canada exposes investors to a degree of political risk.

Shackleton has attempted to reduce the risk/reward ratios further by providing for an independent appraisal of its properties after half of its new money has been spent. If the results at that point are unpromising, Shackleton can apply the balance of the funds to producing properties. The company is also planning to pay dividends at some unspecified time.

Czar, by contrast, ploughs any profits back into exploration.

Shackleton remains a speculative proposition. Shareholders are putting their money on the admittedly successful record of Mr. Lamond and his colleagues, hoping that it will continue. They are backing an unabashed expansionist. He talks confidently of expanding into trillion cubic feet gas fields and, when asked about Czar's financing, replies simply: "we borrow as much as we possibly can."

Restmor ahead to £1.55m

WITH TURNOVER increased from £9.28m to £12.79m, Restmor Group, the baby carriages and nursery furniture manufacturer, reports a rise in pre-tax profits of £339,000 to £1.55m for the year to April 30, 1980, compared with £1.21m. Tax of £292,229.25 against a credit of £29,458.

Earnings per 25p share were held at 25.65p (23.98p) and the net dividend is increased from 3p to 4p with a final of 3.5p.

• comment

Restmor's pre-tax rise of 28 per cent contrasts well with the solid state of most other manufacturers linked to the retail sector. It is attributable in part to average price increases of 10 per cent in its baby carriage and furniture lines and more significantly to a volume increase of at least 15 per cent.

The company must be thankful for the rise in the numbers of first-born children, an important factor in the company's retail sales, and in turn half of its products go to Mothercare and its

partner, the National Baby

Centre.

The company's success is reflected in the volume of sales, especially

in the U.S., which accounts for almost half of world sales of gem diamonds.

A further factor which adver-

sely affected the group's income

from diamonds was the 7.5 per

cent appreciation of the Rand

against the U.S. dollar, to which

international diamond prices are

denominated.

The interim dividend is raised

from 20 cents a share to 25 cents,

on earnings per share of 95.5

cents compared with 94.5 cents.

Mr. Harry Oppenheimer, chairman of De Beers, said in April that he expected sales

and earnings for the full year

to be up 10 per cent.

He pointed out that while the

diamond business was not with

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together with De Beers' growing

diversified holdings in other

businesses, was the source of his

optimism.

The new customary warning

to the effect that full-year profits

cannot be predicted on the basis

of extrapolations from the first

quarter figures is repeated. De Beers

points out that income does not

necessarily accrue evenly

throughout the year.

The company's income from

investments outside the diamond

industry increased during the

first six months by almost 10 per

cent, but this was not enough to offset

the fall in income from the dia-

mond account from £480.6m to

£457.9m. This item in the dia-

mond accounts has been amended to

take in dividend income from

trade investments, with last

MINING NEWS

Little change at De Beers in first six months

BY GEORGE MILLING-STANLEY

FIRST HALF net profits of South Africa's De Beers Consolidated Mines, the most important player in international diamond and rough gem marketing, are virtually unchanged from the corresponding period of last year at £343.4m (£190.6m) against £340.1m.

De Beers said yesterday that it was reasonably satisfied with this performance, coming as it did in the face of the worldwide economic recession. Tighter credit and higher interest rates have reduced the volume of sales, especially

in the U.S., which accounts for almost half of world sales of gem diamonds.

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mond accounts has been amended to

take in dividend income from

trade investments, with last

year's figure being adjusted

accordingly.

At the pre-tax level, De Beers' profits are actually lower, standing at £338m against £368.1m.

A lower tax charge and a sharp

reduction in the state's share of

profits under mining leases gave

rise to the small increase at the

net level.

The results are in line with

expectations on the basis of last

month's first half figures

from De Beers' Central Selling

organisation, which accounts for

the bulk of world sales of rough

gem and industrial diamonds.

In Rand terms, the CSO's sales

were 17 per cent higher at

£1.27m, but this was attribut-

able to price rises and in fact

masked a slight fall in the

volume of stones sold.

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CUMULATIVE DEFICIT NOW \$98M

Further heavy losses at Firestone

BY IAN HARGREAVES IN NEW YORK

FIRESTONE TIRE and Rubber, the large but troubled U.S. tyre maker, suffered another heavy loss in the quarter just ended, taking losses so far this year to \$98m.

The Akron, Ohio company posted a \$32m loss on sales of \$1.15bn in its third quarter, compared with profits of \$10.4m on sales of \$1.31bn in the same period last year.

The losses, somewhat higher than expected, were incurred despite savage retrenchment in Firestone's cross-tyre operations, and reflect the continued depth of the motor industry recession.

Although car sales in June and July showed their first cautious upward move for almost a year, this has not yet

brought any appreciable relief to the tyre companies.

For the first nine months of the year, Firestone cumulative losses was \$98m on sales of \$3.62bn compared with a profit of \$75m on sales of \$3.87bn.

The nine-month figure includes a charge of \$49m taken in the second quarter to cover the cost of plant closures in North America.

Unruled, another tyre maker which has suffered heavy losses in the past year, announced yesterday another bid to raise tyre prices towards the cost of production.

Unruled proposed a 5 per cent increase, but others in the industry were not optimistic about the company's chances of making the increase hold. Firestone imposed a 7.9 per cent

Wheeling seeks wage concessions

BY OUR NEW YORK STAFF

WORKERS AT Wheeling-Pittsburgh, the eighth largest steelmaker in the U.S., are being asked to forego part of the pay increase due to them under their three-year labour contract because of the company's financial problems.

The 12,000 union members at the company will vote today on a management proposal to forego two tranches of cost-of-living indexed payments due this year and a \$150-a-man bonus due in December.

The company hoped to make the indexed payments next year.

Leaders of the United Steelworkers Union, which only concluded details of the new contract in April, have already endorsed the Wheeling-Pittsburgh formula.

The company has also been talking about the possibility of permanent job losses if workers refuse to make sacrifices through the depths of the steel recession.

For 1979 Wheeling's earnings recovered strongly to \$12.16 a share but in the first quarter of this year its profits slumped from \$2.20 in 1979 to \$1.51 a share, and in the second quarter

collapsed to 11 cents against \$4.80.

With the steel industry now operating at less than 65 per cent of capacity, the pressures on steelmakers are intense, but Wheeling-Pittsburgh is thought to be the first to try to adapt from the terms of the union contract.

A few weeks ago workers at Unruled, the struggling tyre and chemicals company, also agreed to forego wage increases and make other concessions in order to help the company through a difficult period.

The company hoped to make the indexed payments next year.

Apple Computer plans to go public

By Paul BETTS in New York
APPLE COMPUTER, the fast growing Californian manufacturer of small computers for the consumer, business and educational markets, is planning to go public later this year.

Apple Computer is the largest private manufacturer in the U.S. of small computers. Founded about five years ago as a small workshop business, it has become the second largest manufacturer of small computers after the Radio Shack division of the Tandy company. Its annual revenues are estimated at \$175m.

The Californian company said yesterday that it would use the proceeds from the operation mainly to raise additional working capital, but declined to disclose the size of the offering or the names of the underwriters.

First Boston sale

FIRST NATIONAL Boston Corporation, holding company for the 17th largest U.S. bank, has reached agreement with Sea Train Lines and Teneffy VLCC Holdings to sell all the stock of its Massachusetts Tankers subsidiary's three very large crude carrier units to Teneffy in exchange for an unspecified amount of Teneffy notes, securitiser Reuter from Boston.

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For the first nine months of fiscal 1980, International Harvester's sales of \$4bn were \$2.3 per cent lower than during the same period last year. Losses for the period totalled \$147.5m compared with profits of \$223m

in the same period last year.

But third quarter earnings of \$61.9m, although lower than the \$67.9m profit for the same period last year, is an improvement over the first two quarters of fiscal 1980 when the company said.

But the company added that in North America the impact of the current recession had been cushioned because of a backlog

of orders accumulated during the six-month strike.

"North American operations returned solidly to the black following the strike," Mr. Archie McCordell, the chairman, said.

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ITALIAN STOCK MARKET

Running ahead of the field in Europe

By RUPERT CORNWELL IN ROME

THE ITALIAN stock market is currently enjoying its first boom in its 1980 low of 83.1 registered in the year's opening session on January 2.

If the remainder of 1980 does not see a collapse in prices, and most market analysts do not expect one—the 26 per cent rise achieved by the index in 1978 seems certain to be eclipsed.

Prices on the Milan bourse, the most important in the country, yesterday rose on average a further 3.4 per cent, putting Italy in front as the fastest moving stock market this year in Europe.

The index compiled by the Banca Commerciale and Italiana stood at the close of trading last night at 125.07, more than 50 per cent above

its 1980 low of 83.1 registered in the year's opening session on January 2.

If the remainder of 1980 does

not see a collapse in prices, and most market analysts do not expect one—the 26 per cent rise achieved by the index in 1978 seems certain to be

eclipsed.

The stocks which have done best have been the traditional "blue chips" of the Milan exchange, in particular banking and insurance shares, and most notably Assicurazione Generali which has risen by more than a quarter in less than a month.

The appeal of shares was underlined this week when a placement of 500,000 Generali shares worth £40bn (\$48bn),

huge by Italian standards, merely provoked a further rise of 6 per cent in the group's price over the past two days.

The market has also suc-

cessfully weathered the hammering of a broker (understood to have over-committed himself to a fall in prices which have simply not materialised) and a tightening of the Bank of Italy's credit squeeze.

Most analysts, however, believe the main reason for the summer boom, which has generated high trading volumes even in the holiday month of August, is the possibility of a devaluation of the lira.

Such a move, it is argued, can only help the prospects of major companies, whose com-

petitiveness abroad has been steadily eroded over the last 15 months of a fixed exchange rate for the currency, inside the European Monetary System.

At the same time, the steady rise of the bourse has at last begun to attract the ordinary investor by providing evidence that the stock market has been for the best way in 1980 of protecting the value of savings.

While £100 invested at the beginning of the year in Treasury bonds would now be worth £109. The same sum spent on an average section of listed shares would be worth £147—an increase more than 40 per cent over the current Italian inflation rate.

A secondary reason for the

improvement has been the higher dividends paid by many quoted companies. Two leading shares which have resumed payments after long interruptions have been Olivetti and La Rinascente, the store group.

The latter's share price has jumped 98 per cent in a single month to close last night at £2.84, amid rumours of a change in its control structure.

Among the few major stocks not to join in the advance have been Fiat and the Montedison chemical concern. But the fact that these two have been left out of the bourse rally, because of worries over their 1980 performance, is held to underlie the healthy and selective nature of the bourse's current revival.

Ogem in credit pact with banks

By CHARLES BATCHELOR IN AMSTERDAM

OGEIM, THE troubled Dutch trading, industrial and construction group, has reached an agreement with its bankers aimed at guaranteeing credit lines during a two-year reorganisation of the company.

Six weeks of negotiations with 21 Dutch and foreign banks have provided Ogem with an "umbrella" against any liquidity problems which might arise, the board said.

The far-reaching nature of the planned reorganisation persuaded Ogem that it would be better to discuss the proposals with the banks, headed by Algemene Bank Nederland, Amsterdam, Rotterdam Bank and Bank of America. Ogem will reorganise its 200 or so consolidated companies into six main groups and dispose of assets worth £1.35bn (450m-400m-450m-205m).

These assets, which account

for a third of Ogem's total invested funds of Fl 1.15bn, include projects under development, electricity companies in the Caribbean, a number of some minority holdings. This will reduce Ogem's considerable interest charges and strengthen the company's balance sheet.

This restructuring plan, which was announced in outline earlier this year, will lead to a Fl 90m write down of Ogem's assets. The company expects to make an operating loss of about Fl 15m this year compared with an operating profit of Fl 62m in 1979.

The slimmed down Ogem, which made a net loss of Fl 5bn, will then be more profitable and less exposed to risks involved in foreign projects. The reorganisation will lead to a loss of half the 200 jobs provided by the

any right as additional security.

Second half upturn expected at Swissair

By John Wicks in Zurich

AFTER A disappointing start to 1980, Swissair is expecting "decent results" for the year as a whole, according to a prospectus for a 25-year bond issue by the airline.

Swissair had a marked drop in operating profits for the first half compared with a year earlier, a period seriously affected by the temporary ban on DC-10 flights. It reported net profits of SwFr 50m (\$29m) for all of last year.

The airline attributes the first-half setback to falling passenger volume in Europe and flat demand on some long-distance routes. Despite increased fares, the lower volume made it impossible to fully cover higher costs, primarily of fuel.

Swissair says measures aimed at increasing demand and lowering costs are beginning to partly compensate for the decline. However, results for calendar 1980 depend on the absence of unfavourable monetary, economic or political developments.

In connection with the bond issue, Swissair announces that its investment needs will total about SwFr 2.25bn (\$1.35bn) 1981-85. Of this sum, approximately SwFr 1.5bn (\$903m) will go on new aircraft.

Together with debt servicing of about SwFr 200m (\$12.65m), total financing needs for the period will equal about SwFr 2.45bn (\$14.7m).

K. Hatori of Japan has authorised Societe Uti, its French distributor, to assemble Seiko electronic watches in France.

Uti has set up a new subsidiary, Climpex, and already assembles watches on a small scale. Production will be stepped up gradually to reach between 100,000 to 150,000 units annually by next year.

French rolling stock group nears rescue

By DAVID WHITE IN PARIS

THE FRENCH Government and five companies are patching together the final details of a plan to rescue Societe Franco-Belge, the troubled railway rolling stock manufacturer.

The company, which employs about 2,300 people, went into receivership in July, but its two principal clients, the Paris public transport authority, RATP, and the state-owned SNCF railways, provided advances to keep it afloat until the beginning of September.

Five companies headed by Aiston-Atlantique, the power engineering, shipbuilding and locomotive manufacturing arm of the CGE electrical group, have reached agreement in principle to take over management of Franco-Belge for two years.

This leasing arrangement leaves ownership of the company nominally in the hands of a family group run by 78-year-old M. Andre Herica. Final agreement depends on a satisfactory settlement on the level and terms of government support.

The group of companies—the others are Ateliers du Nord de la France, Arbel, de Dietrich and Compagnie Electro-

mecanique—sought a guarantee from the Government that it would cover operating losses during the two-year period.

The Government is understood to have agreed to the principle of lending funds on condition that the companies committed themselves to taking over the assets of Franco-Belge when the leasing contract expired.

The two sides are working on a compromise settlement. The companies want to postpone their decision on the future of Franco-Belge in view of uncertain market prospects for railway equipment.

Neither the group of companies nor Franco-Belge's creditor banks—headed by the state-owned Credit Lyonnais—appears at all willing to put up new capital. This leaves the onus on the state.

The provisional leasing agreement is understood to exclude responsibility for a 1978 contract to supply carriages for an underground rail project in Atlanta, Georgia. Franco-Belge has been severely criticised for presenting an unrealistically low bid for the contract which represents one of its main burdens.

Fiat denies SA sale plan

TURIN—Fiat has no intention of selling its South African car assembly operation or renouncing its position in the South African market, the company said, but the group is exploring several other possibilities, including possible joint ventures.

In commenting on yesterday's Financial Times report from Johannesburg that Fiat was seeking a buyer for the assembly business, Reuter

said Fiat was feeling the effects of over-crowded competition in the small South African market and quoted its managing director as saying he was trying to find a way of merging with competitors.

In Turin, company officials confirmed that Fiat was looking at possible changes in its South African operation, but said it continued to regard South Africa as an interesting market.

Nordic companies see downturn

By OUR NORDIC EDITOR IN STOCKHOLM

NORDIC COMPANIES experienced a substantial rise in earnings in 1978 but did not reach a sufficient profit level to cope with the recession most of them anticipate towards the end of this year.

This is the general conclusion drawn by Veckans Affärer, the Stockholm weekly economic magazine, in its annual compilation of the 500 largest enterprises in the Nordic countries.

The big Nordic concern faces a business downturn with a low defence profile. It appears to have become a permanent problem: we meet each downturn with reduced financial strength," Mr. Björn Lundwall, chairman of L. M. Ericsson, the telecommunications equipment manufacturer, comments in the magazine.

The combined earnings of the 500 corporations more than doubled from Skr 10.4bn in 1978 to Skr 28.7bn (\$6.9bn) last year, giving an average return on assets of 7.7 per cent compared with 5.2 per cent.

The Swedes dominate in size but the smaller Danish concerns show better returns on assets. Volvo, the Swedish car and truck group, heads the list with a turnover of Skr 23.5bn and a pre-tax income of Skr 1.14bn.

The Danish co-operative slaughterhouse concerns figure prominently on the list of the most profitable corporations while the oil companies moved up strongly in the earnings table last year. Texaco's Swedish subsidiary, for instance, had a return of 34.7 per cent.

At the other end of the scale, three Swedish companies continued to make the heaviest losses in 1979. They were Svenska Varv, the state shipbuilding group with a Skr 600m loss, Statsforetag, the state holding company, and SSAB, the steel company in which the Swedish state has a half interest. It is worth noting, however, that Svenska Varv's 1979 loss represented an improvement of more than Skr 1bn over its 1978 loss.

The biggest investor was Statoil, the Norwegian state oil company, which poured Skr 2.4bn into developing its North Sea oil and gas assets. It was followed by Statsforetag with 1979 capital spending of Skr 1.76bn and, more surprisingly, by the Stena shipping company of Sweden which invested Skr 1.59bn during 1979, mostly in new ferries. Its investments amounted to 124 per cent of its sales.

Volvo cuts working week

By WILLIAM DULLFORCE IN STOCKHOLM

VOLVO yesterday finalised an agreement with its Swedish trade unions under which 6,500 of the 8,500 workers at its Torslanda car plant in Gothenburg will go onto a three-day work week from September 22. The

Swedish car and truck group announced earlier this month its intention to cut 1980 production to 267,000 cars.

Final output could be even lower, depending on market developments, the car subsidiary said yesterday. The

revised 1980 target compares with the 320,000 cars Volvo made in 1979 and the preliminary 1980 target of 305,000.

The 6,500 workers in Gothenburg affected by the cutback will be laid off for 22 days during the period from September 22 to January 9. Initially

they will work three days a week, and then move onto a four-day week towards the end of the year. The Christmas and New Year holidays will be ex-

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of

ENTE NAZIONALE IDROCARBURI

E. N. I.

(National Hydrocarbons Authority)

7% Sinking Fund Debentures due October 1, 1981

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Sinking Fund for the Debentures of the above-described issue, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, as Fiscal Agent, has selected by lot for redemption on October 1, 1980, at the principal amount thereof \$1,666,000 principal amount of said Debentures, as follows:

Outstanding Debentures of U.S. \$1,000 Each of Prefix "M" Bearing Serial Numbers Ending in the Following Two Digits:

01 07 23 29 35 41 47 53 59 65 71 77 83 89 95 01 07 23 29 35 41 47 53 59 65 71 77 83 89 95
Also Debentures of \$1,000 Each of Prefix "M" Bearing the Following Serial Numbers:

75 1975 2675 3375 4075 4775 5475 6175 6875 7575 8275 8975 9675 0275 0975 1675 2375 3075 3775 4475 5175 5875 6575 7275 7975 8675 9375 0075 0775 1475 2175 2875 3575 4275 4975 5675 6375 7075 7775 8475 9175 9875

On October 1, 1980, there will become and be due and payable upon each Debenture the principal amount thereof, in such coin or currency of the United States of America as on said date is legal tender for the payment thereof in public and private debts, at the option of the holder, either (a) at the corporate trust office of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 1324 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10015, or (b) subject to any laws and regulations applicable thereto with respect to the payment, currency of payment or otherwise in the country of any of the following offices, at the principal office of Banca Nazionale del Lavoro in Rome or the principal office of Banca Commerciale Italiana in Milan or the main offices of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York in London, Brussels, Paris or Frankfurt or the main office of Algemeene Bank Nederland N.V. in Amsterdam, or the main office of Kredietbank S.A. Luxembourg or Luxembourg-Ville.

Debentures surrendered for redemption should have attached all unmatured coupons appertaining thereto. Coupons due October 1, 1980, should be detached and collected in the usual manner.

From and after October 1, 1980, interest shall cease to accrue on the Debentures herein designated for redemption.

ENTE NAZIONALE IDROCARBURI

By MORGAN GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK, Fiscal Agent

August 20, 1980

The following Debentures previously called for redemption have not as yet been presented for payment:

DEBENTURES OF U.S. \$1,000 EACH

1410447 10471 26737 33011 39097 38159 38185 38244 38260 38297 42369 42406 49544 49566 49564
10452 10485 33012 39147 39169 39185 39253 39271 42344 42371 42419 49545 49561
10457 10486 33013 39152 39171 39197 39259 39272 42352 42385 42406 49546 49562
10460 10487 33014 39153 39172 39200 39233 39253 42353 42387 42407 49547 49563

APPLICATION FORM FOR PERSONAL MEMBERSHIP ONLY

ENTRANCE FEE £10.00
SUBSCRIPTION £12.00—Additional family card on the same account number £6.00 each.
All accounts receive "Signature" the Diners Club magazine free. Do not enclose entrance or annual fee.
They will be charged when your card or cards are issued.

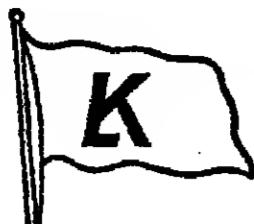
Indemnity supplement £5.00 if required please tick

To The Diners Club United Diners Club House, Kingsmead, Farnborough, Hants GU14 7SR.
I wish to be added to The Diners Club United and agree, if elected, to accept and abide by the Rules of the Club. If I am elected please send me a membership card and new cards from time to time in accordance with the said rules. I understand that members are elected by a committee and in the case where a candidate is not elected, I accept the fact that no reason need be given, nor is there any appeal.

Mr. Mrs. Miss Surname _____ Date of Birth _____ Married Single

Forename _____ Home Address _____ Post Code _____ Tel. No. _____

This announcement appears as a matter of record only



KLOSTERS REDERI A/S

US \$ 50.000.000

medium term facility to finance the
S/S «Norway»

Provided by

Den norske Creditbank (Luxembourg) S.A.
Norfinanz-Bank Zürich
The Bank of Nova Scotia Channel Islands Limited
Southeast First National Bank of Miami
Nordic American Banking Corporation
Nordic Bank Limited
Ship Mortgage International Bank N.V.
Schiffshypothekenbank zu Lübeck AG
Kansallis International Bank S.A.

Arranged by

Den norske Creditbank

July 1980

All these bonds having been placed, this announcement appears as a matter of record only.



EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

250,000,000 Luxembourg Francs
11 1/4 % Bonds 1980-1987Underwritten and privately placed by
BANQUE INTERNATIONALE A LUXEMBOURG
Société anonyme

Luxembourg, July 29, 1980

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

\$125,000,000

Polaroid Corporation

11 1/8% Notes Due August 15, 1990

Interest payable semi-annually on February 15 and August 15

Lehman Brothers Kuhn Loeb
Incorporated

The First Boston Corporation

Merrill Lynch, White Weld Capital Markets Group
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated

Bache Halsey Stuart Shields Incorporated

Dillon, Read & Co. Inc. Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette
Securities CorporationE. F. Hutton & Company Inc. Kidder, Peabody & Co.
Incorporated

L. F. Rothschild, Unterberg, Towbin

Smith Barney, Harris Upham & Co.
Incorporated

Wertheim & Co., Inc.

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Salomon Brothers

Blyth Eastman Paine Webber
IncorporatedDrexel Burnham Lambert
Incorporated

Lazard Frères & Co.

Shearson Loeb Rhoades Inc.

Warburg Paribas Becker
A.G. Becker

Dean Witter Reynolds Inc.

August 13, 1980

كما من قبل

BANKING IN INDIA

Aims clash over rural expansion

BY MICHELLE MISQUITA AND KEVIN RAFFERTY

THE NUMBER of India's rural banks has risen rapidly since the major banks were nationalised in 1969. Figures recently issued by the Reserve Bank of India show a sevenfold increase in rural bank branches in the past 10 years.

But officials are realising that the problems of taking banking to the Indian people are only just beginning. In most of India's half a million villages the moneylender charging anything from 40 to 400 per cent interest a year still reigns supreme.

In statistical terms the growth of rural bank branches is a matter for pride. In 1969 there were 1,832 rural branches in India, or 22.2 per cent of the total. After a decade of bank nationalisation the number had shot up to 13,333, or 44.1 per cent of all bank branches. The rural banks have also shown a similar sevenfold expansion in their share of credit, from a mere 1.5 per cent of total credit in 1969 to 10 per cent last year.

The State Bank of India, the biggest commercial bank and 118th in The Banker's top 500 world banks, has most rural branches, followed by other banks such as the Central Bank of India, the Bank of Baroda, the Bank of India and the Punjab National Bank.

The Reserve Bank and Finance Ministry officials have worked hard to press the banks to open rural branches. A senior bank official said: "The Reserve Bank pressures the commercial banks in various ways: it prescribes norms regarding the opening of bank branches and also tries to cajole them and use moral suasion. At one time the bank used the bait that for every four rural branches a bank opened, it could open an urban one."

But he also admitted that there were problems: "to indicate a sense of responsibility in banks is difficult. Quantitatively, they have been able to show results, but on closer inspection the nature of their lending is poor."

The trouble in the Government's eyes is that bank lending tends to focus upon the cities and upon big industrial houses.

The Reserve Bank urges the commercial banks to be aware of India's social objectives as well as the need to make profits. It encourages banks to appoint agricultural extension officers who will tour rural areas and be alive to investment opportunities.

And the commercial banks continue to complain that rural banking is difficult for them. One of the heads of a large commercial bank grumbles: "For each rural branch I open I lose money. I have to set up an infrastructure which is far too costly for the money which

is attracted to the bank. And we do have an obligation to make profits and to make the best use of the money coming to us."

This clash of objectives opens the question of whether the commercial banks, as at present constituted, are the best vehicle for bringing banking to the 666m people of India, 80 per cent of whom live in rural areas.

One important aspect is that

tioned, appointment.

The Indian bank manager's career structure demands that he be urban, educated, careful, in fact virtually the very opposite of what he needs to be to appreciate the possibilities of new risky rural venture.

For the ordinary villagers, the moneylender has no real competition. A man needs money for a new bullock or buffalo or for the dowry for his daughter. He wants it quickly

and actually reach the masses. In some parts of Latin America, the government, with the backing of the World Bank, has set up a network of "banking agents," often the local schoolmaster or government clerk, who live in the village and both collect funds and make loans. This system offers local knowledge and is cheaper and more flexible than setting up a bank office.

In India the government has rejected the ideas of mobile banks—a van that tours from village to village—and of employing government agricultural workers on a term basis instead, to encourage small borrowing. It has reduced the rate of interest on them to 12 per cent compared to 18 per cent or more for large accounts.

But it is indicative of the problem that even the best intentions can backfire. In Uttar Pradesh, for example, India's largest state with more than 90m people, the poor peasant takes a loan of Rs 100 to buy food to keep his family alive. The lender is the village's biggest landowner, and the peasant is lucky if he can meet the 60 per cent annual interest payments. Yet the big farmer now runs his tractor on a 12 per cent bank loan, and no longer needs to employ the peasant thanks to the cheaply financed and faster-working new machines.

LOCATION OF BANK BRANCHES

Year	Total bank branches	Location (in percentage terms)		
		Rural	Semi-urban	Urban
1969	2,262	22.2	40.2	27.5
1979	30,302	44.1	26.0	15.6

Source: Reserve Bank of India

Kempas to sell stake in Highlands and Lowlands

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

KEMPAS (MALAYA) Bhd has agreed to sell its entire holding in Highlands and Lowlands Bhd to Permodalan Nasional Bhd in a deal worth about 74.97m ringgit (\$34.8m).

Kempas, in which Sime Darby, the Malaysian-based conglomerate, has a 51.8 per cent stake, has oil palm and rubber estates throughout western Malaysia. It holds 29.4m shares in Highlands and Lowlands, and it has agreed to sell its stake at 2.51 ringgit per share to Permodalan, the Government-owned investment trust.

The holding is equal to 9.9 per cent of Highlands and Lowlands issued capital of 297.3m shares of 50 cents nominal value. Kempas said that the 74.97m ringgit sale will provide an extraordinary profit of 49.95m ringgit.

This will result in the net assets per share of Kempas rising to 4.04 ringgit from 3.04 ringgit, on the basis of Kempas' last published accounts as of June 30, 1979, the company said. The sale is subject to shareholders' approval at an extraordinary meeting to be called soon.

Sime Darby has indicated its intention to vote in favour of the sale, Kempas said.

The sale will be completed as soon as possible after the meeting and the cash received will meanwhile be placed on deposit.

The sale price, which Kempas said was agreed with Permodalan, after intensive negotiations, compares with yesterday's closing price of 2.94 ringgit per share for Highlands and Lowlands shares here.

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Record half-year for Showa Denko

BY YOKO SHIBATA IN TOKYO

SHOWA DENKO, Japan's leading manufacturer of petrochemical products, reported record earnings for its interim period ended June 30, 1980, following increases in its selling prices.

Operating profits reached a record Y12.47bn (\$55m), up 7.6 per cent over the previous six months, to December 1979.

Net profits came to Y5.07bn, up 8.1 per cent. Comparisons with the corresponding six months of

the previous year are not given, because the company absorbed Showa Yuka, another petrochemical concern, on July 1, 1979.

Sales increased by 16 per cent to Y242.43bn, with growth in petrochemical products of 13.5 per cent, to account for 68 per cent of the total.

Rising prices of raw materials were passed on to selling prices of ethylene and propylene. Sales of ferro-alloys and furnace pro-

ducts also gained by 14.9 per cent to account for 23.7 per cent.

Exports rose by 30 per cent to account for 9.8 per cent of the total and contributed Y2.6bn of exchange gains.

In the current half-year, the company faces a sharp fall in demand for petrochemical products, partly because of the economic slow-down and partly as a reaction to previous advance buying.

De Beers

Interim Report
and
Declaration of Dividend

Notes:

1. Dividend income from trade investments has been included in the Diamond Account and the comparative figures of the previous year have been adjusted accordingly.
2. The results have been affected by the appreciation during the six months of approximately 7.5 per cent in the value of the rand against the U.S. dollar, the currency in which diamonds are sold.
3. It should not be assumed that the results for the half-year ended 30th June will be repeated in the half-year ending 31st December, since income does not necessarily accrue evenly throughout the year.

DIRECTORATE

It is with deep regret that the death of Mr. A. Wilson on 13th June 1980 is reported. On 19th August 1980 Mr. P. J. L. Crokaert was elected to the board of which he had been a member for 21 years. Mr. P. J. R. Leyden and Mr. A. E. Oppenheimer were appointed directors of the company on 19th August 1980.

INTERIM DIVIDEND

Declaration of Dividend No. 121 on the Deferred Shares. An increased interim dividend in respect of the year ending 31st December 1980, being dividend No. 121 of 25 cents per share (1979: 20 cents) has been declared payable to the holders of deferred shares registered in the books of the Company at the close of business on 26th September 1980 and to persons presenting coupon No. 65 detached from deferred share warrants to bearer.

Shareholders will recall that it was stated in the last annual report that it was intended to reduce the disparity between the interim and final dividends.

A notice regarding payment of dividends on coupon No. 65 detached from share warrants to bearer, will be published in the press by the London Secretaries of the Company on or about 19th September 1980.

The deferred share transfer registers and registers of members will be closed from 27th September 1980 to 9th October 1980, both days inclusive, and warrants will be posted from the Johannesburg and United Kingdom transfer offices on or about 30th October 1980. Registered shareholders paid from the United Kingdom will receive the United Kingdom currency equivalent on 21st October 1980 of the rand value of their dividends (less appropriate taxes). Any such shareholders may, however, elect to be paid in South African currency, provided that the request is received at the Company's transfer offices in Johannesburg or the United Kingdom on or before 26th September 1980.

The effective rate of non-resident shareholders' tax is 9.97 per cent.

The dividend is payable subject to conditions which can be inspected at the head office and London office of the Company and also at the Company's transfer offices in Johannesburg and the United Kingdom.

For and on behalf of the board
H. F. OPPENHEIMER
P. J. OPPENHEIMER, Directors

Copies of this report will be posted to all registered shareholders

Head Office: 36 Stockdale Street, Kimberley, South Africa.
London Secretaries: Anglo American Corporation of South Africa Limited, 40 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1AJ.
Transfer Secretaries: Consolidated Share Registrars Limited, 62 Marshall Street, Johannesburg, (P.O. Box 61051, Marshalltown, 2107).
Charter Consolidated Limited, P.O. Box No. 102, Charter House, Park Street, Ashford, Kent TN24 8EQ.

De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited

Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa

Dollar steady

The dollar was steady in currency markets yesterday, in generally quiet trading, with higher U.S. interest rates still accounting for a firm under tone. Longer-term Euro-dollar rates were higher in anticipation of tighter Federal policy following last week's poor money supply figures. Against the D-mark the dollar closed at DM 1.8068 compared with DM 1.7900 on Monday, but finished unchanged against the Swiss franc at SwFr 1.6500. On the other hand the U.S. unit was weaker against the Japanese yen following a smaller than expected cut in the Japanese discount rate. On Bank of England figures, the dollar's trade weighted index eased to 84.8 from 85.0.

Sterling was generally weaker in a market lacking in features, and drifted up profit taking to finish with a trade weighted index of 78.5, compared with 77.7 on Monday. Against the dollar it opened at \$3.8640 but fell during the morning to stand at \$3.8580 around noon. Soon after the dollar came off offer and sterling recovered to \$3.8430, but drifted towards the close to \$2.8600-2.8610, a fall of 90 points from Monday.

D-MARK—One of the weaker members of the European Monetary System of late, and showing a tendency to ease against the dollar following the turnaround in U.S. interest rates. Last year foreign energy supplies and balance of payments problems severely depressed the currency. The yen improved against the dollar in late July, trading yesterday, following the cut in Japan's discount rate. The move was widely anticipated and reflects a slowdown in the economy, which the authorities wish in reverse, and also a slowdown in consumer prices. The discount rate has been increased five times since April 1979, and is figures released over the last three months which have shown a distinct slowing in the inflation rate through the consumer price index. Yesterday the dollar fell to Y228.10, from Y226.30 at the opening, and Monday's close.

EMS EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT RATES

ECU	Amounts	% change	from	% change	adjusted for	Divergence	limit %
central rates							
Aug. 19							
Belgian Franc ...	40,4745	+1.72	+0.50		±1.53		
Danish Krone ...	7,72235	7,21239	+1.47	+0.44	±1.64		
German D-Mark ...	2,42428	2,53119	+1.38	+0.45	±1.64		
French Franc ...	5,84700	6,88697	+0.22	-0.91	±1.3657		
Dutch Guilder ...	2,73432	2,75169	+0.29	-0.84	±1.612		
Irish Pounds ...	0,68207	0,68628	+0.21	-0.82	±1.668		
Italian Lira ...	1157.70	1157.25	+3.41	+2.49	±4.08		

Changes are for ECU, therefore positive change denotes a weak currency. Adjustment calculated by Financial Times.

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

Aug. 10	Pound Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Deutschmark	Japan's Yen	French Franc	Swiss Franc	Dutch Guilder	Italian Lira	Canada Dollar	Belgian Franc	£ Note Rates
U.S. Dollar	1	1.361	1	1,802	529.5	4,185	6,920	4,620	2,008	2,748	57.77
Deutschmark	0.424						1,957	1,957	851.1	1,154	
Japanese Yen 1,000	0.835	0.855	1	8057	184.5	6,618	10,826	4,724	2,648	3,648	15.07
French Franc 10	1.017	1.401	1.008	1,085	658.8	18	5,987	4,699	2,043	2,785	58.65
Swiss Franc	0.365	0.608	1,005	1,361	2,508	1	1,179	1,179	512.5	0,701	17.32
Dutch Guilder	0.916	0.511	0.920	114.7	2,138	0.848	1	4,324	1,000	1,588	14.70
Italian Lira 1,000	1.175	1.175	2,117	663.7	4,994	2,300	1	1,000	1,000	1,000	13.80
Canadian Dollar	0.394	0.859	1,547	198.7	6,677	1,420	1,681	1,681	720.9	1	24.70
Belgian Franc 100	2,473	5,755	5,803	280.2	14.46	5,723	6,804	2,969	1	4,048	100.

FT LONDON INTERBANK FIXING (11.00 a.m., AUGUST 19)

3 months U.S. dollars		6 months U.S. dollars		The fixing rates are the arithmetic means, rounded to the nearest one-sixteenth, of the bid and offered rates for \$10m quoted by the market to five reference banks at 11 am each working day. The banks are National Westminster Bank, Bank of Tokyo, Deutsche Bank, Banque Nationale de Paris, and Morgan Guaranty Trust.							
bld 11	offer 11/18	bld 11/9/18	offer 11/11/18								

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES (Market Closing Rates)

Aug. 18	Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Canadian Dollar	Dutch Guilder	Swiss Franc	West German Mark	French Franc	Italian Lira	Asian \$	Japanese Yen
18 short term	152-184%	8-94	9-10	10-104	61-68	61-68	11-114	50-40	94-95%	155-156%
7 days' notice	162-187%	8-94	9-10	10-104	61-68	61-68	11-114	55-43	92-93%	155-154%
Month	164-174%	87-104	98-10	10-104	5-51	5-51	11-114	65-53	10-104	161-124%
Three months	182-187%	104-114	104-104	5-51	81-84	81-84	11-114	31-32	11-114	161-124%
6 months	182-187%	112-114	112-114	5-51	81-84	81-84	11-114	38-39	11-114	161-124%
One Year	144-174	114-114	114-114	5-51	78-8	78-8	11-114	42-45	84-85	161-124%

Long-term Eurodollar two years 117-12 per cent; three years 12-12% per cent; four years 12-12% per cent; five years 12-12% per cent nominal closing rates. Short-term rates are call for sterling, U.S. dollars, Canadian dollars and Japanese yen; others two-days' notice. Asian rates are closing rates in Singapore. The following nominal rates were quoted for London dollar certificates of deposit: one-month 9.90-10.00 per cent; three-month 10.40-10.50 per cent; six-months 10.55-10.55 per cent; one year 11.10-11.20 per cent.

INTERNATIONAL MONEY MARKET

Belgian rates ease

The Belgian National Bank announced further reductions in short-term Treasury bill rates yesterday, cutting the rate on one, two and three-month bills by 0.15 per cent. The new rates are 12.10 per cent for one and two-months and 12.35 per cent for three-months. At yesterday's weekly auction the rate on four-month bond fund paper was also reduced by 0.15 per cent to 12.30 per cent. Rates were cut only last week, and reflects a further easing of interest rates in many European centres.

In Amsterdam the Dutch central bank is to increase the money market's daily quota from F1.35bn to an average F1.37bn, from August 21 to November 19 inclusive. The quota is the amount which can be borrowed from the central bank in the form of secured loans at 10 per cent, with banks paying an additional 1 per cent for gaining up to 25 per cent above their allowed amount. Additional loans carry even heavier penalties.

In Tokyo seven day money fell from 11.75 per cent to 12.25 per cent following the latest reduction in the Japanese discount rate to 8.25 per cent.

In Rome an offer of two-year Treasury certificates has been announced by the Bank of Italy. The L300m on offer will have a floating rate with a guaranteed six-month yield of at least 6.75

MONEY RATES

Aug. 18	Sterling	Certificate	Interbank	Local Authority	Local Authority	Finance	Nease	Deposits	Discount market	Treasury Bills	Eligible Bank Bills	Pino Trade Bills
Overnight	—	—	164-18	—	—	—	—	167	164-18	—	—	—
3 days notice	—	—	164-18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7 days notice	—	—	164-18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
One month	—	—	164-18	104-104	164-164	174	163-174	104-104	145	164-164	167-167	167-167
Two months	—	—	164-18	104-104	164-164	174	163-174	104-104	145	164-164	167-167	167-167
Three months	—	—	164-18	104-104	164-164	174	163-174	104-104	145	164-164	167-167	167-167
Six months	—	—	164-18	104-104	164-164	174	163-174	104-104	145	164-164	167-167	167-167
One Year	—	—	164-18	144-144	144-144	145-15	15	151	—	—	—	—
Two years	—	—	164-18	144-144	144-144	145-15	15	151	—	—	—	—

Local authority and finance houses offer seven days' notice, others seven days' fixed. Long-term local authority mortgages rates nominally three years 13%-14% per cent; four years 13%-14% per cent; five years 13%-14% per cent. **Bank bill rates** in table are buying rates for prime paper. Buying rates for four-month bank bills 167-167% per cent; two-months 164-164% per cent; three-months 163-163% per cent; four-months 162-162% per cent; five-months 161-161% per cent; six-months 160-160% per cent; one year 159-159% per cent.

Approximate selling rates for one-month Treasury bills 142-142% per cent; two-months 141-141% per cent; three-months 140-140% per cent; four-months 139-139% per cent; five-months 138-138% per cent; six-months 137-137% per cent; one year 136-136% per cent.

Discount rates 6.5 11.25 11.025 11.025 11.025 11.025

Overnight rates 7.25

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

NEW YORK

Stock	Aug. 12	Aug. 13	Stock	Aug. 18	Aug. 15	Stock	Aug. 18	Aug. 15	Stock	Aug. 18	Aug. 15	Stock	Aug. 18	Aug. 15	Stock	Aug. 18	Aug. 15	
ACF Industries	324	393	Columbia Cas.	39	391	Gt. Atc. Pac. Tsn.	51	53	Mesa Petroleum	51	61	Schultz Brew. J.	71	71				
AMF	175	191	Comd. Ind.	81	82	Gt. Basins Pet.	13	15	Siemens	75	73	Schulzberger	151	135				
AM Int'l	181	191	Com. Eng.	70	71	Gr. Nth. Nekoosa	321	324	Siemens	95	94	Siemens	225	219				
AMer.	51	51	Comd. Equip.	20	204	Greyhound	151	151	Siemens P. & C.	301	301	Siemens P. & C.	225	219				
AMer. Comp.	58	58	Com. Graph.	23	24	Grimm	257	24	Missouri Pac.	681	681	Siemens D. & V.	12	12				
Abbotts Lab.	48	48	GIC	13	14	Gulf & Western	19	19	Sears Contr.	261	261	Siemens G.	12	12				
Acme Cleve.	26	26	Com. Seized	19	19	Gulf Oil	41	42	Siemens H.	261	261	Siemens H.	12	12				
Acme Oil & Gas	412	422	Com. Mills	40	401	Hallibut.	85	22	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Acme Oil & Gas	355	355	Conn Cee Ins.	401	401	Hannover	228	304	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Ahmanson, H.F.	21	21	Conn. Cee.	64	64	Hanselman	111	121	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Air Prod & Chem	47	472	Contract	25	25	Harcourt	334	325	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Aitzons	11	11	Cone Foods	25	25	Harrington	274	274	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Albany Inv'l	355	355	Coast Freight	26	26	Harris Banc.	274	274	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Albermarle	231	231	Coast Nat. Gas	50	51	Harris Corp.	43	45	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Aico Standard	53	53	Consumer Power	18	18	Hausele.	34	34	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Aleghany Ludm.	533	533	Conti Corp.	22	22	Hawthorne	251	251	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alit. Chem. Ind.	52	52	Conti Grp.	32	32	Hawthorne	37	39	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alit. Chem. Ind.	51	51	Conti Utilis.	28	28	Hawthorne	40	41	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alpha Prod.	161	161	Conti Telop	141	141	Hawthorne	41	42	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alveo	589	588	Control	674	674	Hawthorne	42	43	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Sugar	511	511	Cop. Ind.	51	51	Hawthorne	43	44	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Trade	611	611	Copeland	23	23	Hawthorne	44	45	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Airlines	51	51	Copperfield	18	18	Hawthorne	45	46	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Broadcast	224	224	Corsair	51	51	Hawthorne	46	47	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Cm. Cyndam	271	271	Craftsbridge's	47	51	Hawthorne	47	48	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Elec. Pwr.	178	178	Cronk	39	39	Hawthorne	48	49	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Gen. Ind.	205	205	Crocker Nat.	341	341	Hawthorne	49	50	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Holst & G.	183	183	Crown Cell	51	51	Hawthorne	50	51	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Home Prod.	301	301	Cummins Eng.	31	31	Hawthorne	51	52	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Home-Savins	261	261	Curtis-Wright	24	24	Hawthorne	52	53	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Ind. Int'l	48	48	Cushman	24	24	Hawthorne	53	54	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Motors	487	487	Dart Inds.	43	43	Hawthorne	54	55	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Net Rescos	478	478	Data Cen.	90	91	Hawthorne	55	56	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Perfume	357	357	Daytrader	471	478	Hawthorne	56	57	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. T. & Tel.	51	51	Delta Air	47	47	Hawthorne	57	58	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Tele.	51	51	Den'ys	20	21	Hawthorne	58	59	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Standard	671	671	Dentply Int'l	18	18	Hawthorne	59	60	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Tel. & Tel.	291	291	Detroit Edifice	12	12	Hawthorne	60	61	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. T. & Tel.	443	443	Diamond Shamk.	25	25	Hawthorne	61	62	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. T. & Tel.	443	443	DTI Stoltz	9	97	Hawthorne	62	63	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Anchor	978	978	Digital Equip.	89	97	Hawthorne	63	64	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Aitneur-2h	294	294	Digital Equip.	97	97	Hawthorne	64	65	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Archer Daniels	321	321	Diamond Shamk.	98	98	Hawthorne	65	66	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Arco	314	314	Diamond Shamk.	99	99	Hawthorne	66	67	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Armstrong	175	175	Diamond Shamk.	100	100	Hawthorne	67	68	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Armstrong	175	175	Diamond Shamk.	101	101	Hawthorne	68	69	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Armstrong	175	175	Diamond Shamk.	102	102	Hawthorne	69	70	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Armstrong	175	175	Diamond Shamk.	103	103	Hawthorne	70	71	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Armstrong	175	175	Diamond Shamk.	104	104	Hawthorne	71	72	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Armstrong	175	175	Diamond Shamk.	105	105	Hawthorne	72	73	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Armstrong	175	175	Diamond Shamk.	106	106	Hawthorne	73	74	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				
Alv. Armstrong	175	175	Diamond Shamk.	107	107	Hawthorne	74	75	Siemens M.	581	584	Siemens M.	12	12				

Sugar price rise forecast as world output falls

By RICHARD MOONEY

WORD SUGAR prices are likely to rise over \$100 a tonne over the next few months, according to a report published yesterday. London Commodity house Inter Commodities said it expected the March position in the London futures market to reach \$450-\$500 a tonne by November. Yesterday the March quotation fell \$5.30 to \$352.25 a tonne.

The Inter report projected world sugar production in the 1980/81 season at 83m tonnes and world consumption at 92m tonnes. As a result, stocks were forecast to decline to about 20m tonnes or 22 per cent of annual consumption creating "a very tight supply situation."

But supplies are unlikely to be as tight as in the 1973/74 "bull" market when stocks fell to about 30 per cent of consumption and prices rose above \$800 a tonne, the report said. A rise of this magnitude is not foreseen this time therefore.

Slow start expected for HK gold futures market

HONG KONG—Hong Kong's gold futures market, which started trading yesterday was expected to get off to a slow start, according to international bullion dealers here.

The success of the new market will depend largely on its ability to generate enough turnover to attract investors and the initial impetus is widely expected to come from the international market.

Dealers did not discount the possibility of an initial burst of activity but they expect this to die down quite quickly.

Activity on the international gold market had been low recently, they noted. One dealer estimated volume on the London market, which is gold quoted here for London delivery, down 50 per cent over the past three weeks.

Specifications of the contract set by the Hong Kong Commodity Exchange and approved by the Commodity Trading Commission are similar to those offered by the New York Commodity Exchange and Chicago International Monetary Market.

Prices will be quoted in U.S. dollars for 100 troy ounce lots

of refined gold of not less than 95 fineness for delivery in London. Trading will follow the open outcry system and initial delivery months will be December, February, April, June, August and October.

An exchange official said delivery months could be added to provide a trading period of up to two years and one month. Extra contracts would be added as trading volume and demand increased.

The minimum price movement will be 10 U.S. cents per troy ounce, recently revised downward from 20 U.S. cents, while the price fluctuation limitation is set at \$40 above or below the settlement price at the previous day's close.

If this is breached there will only be a 30 minute suspension after which trading will resume.

In Singapore meanwhile, the Monetary Authority said non-residents accounted for 57 per cent of total turnover in 1979. Transactions by non-residents rose 49 per cent compared with 48 per cent for residents.

Individuals remained the largest net buyers among the

residents though net purchases of gold by companies, banks and other financial institutions showed a significant increase.

As in previous years, dealers made most of their net purchases from the UK and Switzerland.

Trading is standard bars accounted for 85 per cent of total turnover compared with 85 per cent in 1978. Trading in one kilo gold constituted 12 per cent compared with 10 per cent in 1978.

Daily average turnover was 294 lots compared with less than 100 lots in its first two months of operations in 1978.

The planned gold futures market in London is likely to be in the new premises of the London Metal Exchange (LME), LME chairman Mr. Ian Foeter said yesterday.

The LME starts trading in its new premises in Plantation House on September 29.

Last month it said it hoped gold futures trading in London would start in early 1981 in co-operation with the London gold market.

Reuter

Coffee price support talks rumoured

By Our Commodities Staff

THE BRAZILIAN Coffee Institute (IBC) would not comment yesterday on rumours that it was in touch with officials of the Pancafe's producer cooperative company this week to discuss new price support measures.

Pancafe was formed earlier this year by members of the Bogota Group of coffee producing countries to administer the \$450m price support fund with which they have been trying to share up world coffee prices for the last two years.

Following this year's dramatic decline to four-year lows producers have become increasingly concerned about the effectiveness of the fund and last week two members, Mexico and Venezuela were reported to have pledged an extra \$50m each.

Brazil, easily the world's largest producer, has so far announced no decision on making more money available.

Producers have also tried to support prices this year by withholding coffee from the market, a policy led by Brazil which suspended exports on July 4. This failed to stem the decline, however, and Brazil is expected to re-open export registrations shortly so that it can have a fighting chance of meeting its export target for the year of 15m bags (60 kilos each).

These stem from the consistent failure of Bangladesh Government to hammer out a steady and workable policy for growth of the crop, allied to inefficiency in the jute mills. As it is, Bangladesh has a carry-over stock of 3.2m bales of jute, and the Indian mills' capacity is a maximum 6.5m to 7m bales.

But Nepal and Thailand have also recently cut into Bangladesh's market with their sales of other hard fibres when there were hiccups in Bangladesh's supply and delivery of jute.

Reliability is a key difficulty where Bangladesh jut is concerned. The size of the crop has see-sawed since independence between a high of 6.5m bales and a low of 3.8m. Un-

JUTE PRODUCTION

Bangladesh industry faces crisis

BY A CORRESPONDENT

BANGLADESH jute is in a mess. That is hardly an original statement, but when the responsible government minister also admits it, it is a good sign that the crisis has bitten deeply.

Mr. Habibullah Khan, recently appointed Bangladesh jute minister, warned last month that if the U.S. economic recession did not end soon, then Bangladesh's jute industry would "face another disaster." He said that shipments of carpet-backing cloth to the U.S. had stopped and supplies were piling up alarmingly at the mills.

Carpet-backing accounts for 85 per cent of Bangladesh jute goods exports, and the U.S. is the best market for jute goods.

The minister, understandingly, was understating the problems confronting Bangladesh and its jute. Many of these are of Bangladesh's own making: the recession merely compounded and complicated the difficulties.

These stem from the consistent failure of Bangladesh Government to hammer out a steady and workable policy for growth of the crop, allied to inefficiency in the jute mills.

Because of lower exports in the first half jute goods stocks at the end of July rose to a record 102,000 tonnes.

Meanwhile the Government has taken measures to boost the sagging raw jute market by the fixing of a minimum price for raw jute deals in Calcutta at Rs 217 per quintal (100 lb) for the W5 grade and reportedly adopting a policy to subsidise raw jute exports to the extent the

Jute Corporation of India incurs losses in actual transactions with foreign buyers.

But bard reality is that such

improved jute seeds could allow higher production from the same land area.

But now these wild dreams have come to earth again, hard reality. The immediate problem is what to do about the huge carryover stocks. The jute would be worth about \$150m at the minimum support prices and the money is tied up in bank loans to the traders. Mr. Saifur Rahman argues that the huge stock presents a good case for support from buffer stock funds.

But bard reality is that such funds are not available and Bangladesh will have to devise its own solution. To write off the stocks, apart from the small quantity which is of high quality, would be inflationary.

Some Bangladeshi are suggesting imaginative solutions like pulping some of the jute to make paper, unfortunately the techniques for using paper are not well developed.

However, probably less than half of the sums supposedly tied up in jute purchases have actually been spent on jute.

Most of Bangladesh's growers are small farmers who live permanently on the edge of debt and have to sell virtually as soon as they pull the crop from the fields and ret the fibre. Experts calculate that in 1979 the price was only 33 per cent to 40 per cent of the supposed minimum support price.

The fine promises of the government to aid the jute farmer have not protected him from the middlemen. Nor have they done anything to help the smooth growth of jute.

The consequences for the national accounts are depressing, as Bangladesh gets 70 per cent of its pastry export earnings from jute and jute goods.

USSR top NZ wool buyer

WELLINGTON—The Soviet Union has displaced Britain as best customer for New Zealand wool, Mr. John Clarke, the chairman of the wool board, said today in a review of the past selling season.

Last season, for the first time in New Zealand's 140 years of wool exporting, Britain was not the biggest buyer.

The Soviet Union bought 29,000 tonnes against Britain's 30,000 tonnes.

Mr. Clarke said the Soviet dominance of the market was likely to continue. He said the British textile industry faced difficult times and its wool purchases were not likely to rise.

New Zealand sold 285,000 tonnes of wool to 49 foreign markets in 1979-80, Reuter

bales, and Bangladesh has traditionally had the lion's share of this. It is hoping for 2.5m bales this year, but such a figure could prove optimistic, not only because of the recession, but also because changes in official policy have encouraged competitors.

Simple arithmetic suggests that already Bangladesh is stuck with its carryover stock.

But it may find that the stock grows rather than diminished because of the competition.

India obviously could be a powerful rival. It has jute to spare.

Its crop this year is expected to be a record 8m bales, compared to 6.45m last year.

In addition there is a

certainty has affected everyone, from the small peasant farmer with strip of land and worried about whether he would get a better price from planting paddy or jute to the foreign buyer, uncertain of his shipment.

Underlying it all is a fundamental difficulty that Bangladesh has an economy bedevilled by official policy: official plants look splendid, but the government machine lacks the capacity to turn fine words into action.

Only a year ago the country hoped that the new round of oil price would allow jute to make a comeback on the world market against synthetic substitutes. At the same time new

Peru acts to protect pilchard fisheries

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

PERU newly installed government is taking strong measures to save its pilchards from going the same way as the once plentiful anchovy which is now barely surviving extinction after years of overfishing.

Mr. Ingeniero Rene Deustua, Fisheries Minister, who took office on July 28 is restricting the pilchard catch to 200,000 metric tons between now and the end of the year. Fishing is

to be permitted only two weeks out of every month except for fisherman with boats of less than twenty tons and fishing boats fitted with refrigeration systems, which are in the minority.

Mr. Deustua says he is following the advice of Inmarpe, Peru's Marine Research Institute, which reports pilchards have been overfished to the point where resources are endangered.

The aim is eventually to make fishmeal only from residuals at the plants although

Mr. Deustua estimates it will take 18 months to reach this target, since few vessels or handling and storage centres are adequately refrigerated.

Anchovy fishmeal up to recently was Peru's fish export bringing in up to \$300m a year. Pescaperu, the state fishmeal producer, has in the past few years turned to pilchards for raw material due to the virtual disappearance of anchovy.

AMERICAN MARKETS

SUGAR

LIMA, August 19.—THE LIVESTOCK complex finished trading in a narrow range and quiet trading. Sugar sold off sharply despite reported inquiries by India. Precious metals advanced in the Middle East, dollar declined lower on a lack of interest.

Cocoa was in a major decline on indications of heavy oversupply in the September position. Cotton advanced on reports of possible damage to the September crop. Profit taking affected sugar, which closed mixed. Grains maintained minor gains most of the day. Copper rallied in anticipation of an imminent strike settlement reported in Hong Kong.

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Ocean Transport profit is £16.7m

By Our Shipping Correspondent

THE PRE-TAX profit of Ocean Transport and Trading, one of Britain's leading shipping companies, rose £10.1m to £16.7m in the first half of this year.

The scale of the improvement caught the stock market by surprise yesterday and shipping shares generally rose strongly on the news.

The performance is especially good because the company had to bear nearly £5m of extra interest and depreciation charges in the period. The company's dividend is almost unchanged.

Mr. David Hardy, Ocean's finance director, said yesterday part of the reason for the increase in profits was a strong recovery by the group's West African business.

In the first half of 1979, a large part of Ocean's West African liner services were nearly at a standstill, following the Nigerian Government's introduction of a pre-shipment inspection scheme for all import cargo.

The Nigerian trades, accounting for a large part of Ocean's liner operations, are back to normal and, in addition, are benefiting from the Nigerian economy's growth.

After the news of its results the share of Ocean Transport rose by 5p to 135p and the share price of P and O, due to report its interim results next month, rose 5p to 132p.

Apart from recovery of its Nigerian business, Ocean's results were helped by an increased contribution from Straits Steamship in Singapore, and by the earnings from its new tonnage on the Barber Blue Sea round-the-world service.

In its bulk shipping operations Ocean benefited from the buoyancy of the dry-cargo markets and managed to fix many of its ships forward, before freight rates started to drop.

In spite of the recession, many of Ocean's long-haul activities performed reasonably well. The contribution from associates, two-thirds of which is Ocean's stake in Overseas Containers, increased by two-fifths to £10.7m.

The company said it expected the second half-year's results to be similar to the first half-year. It has had to digest a sharp increase in its ship's bunker prices but has managed to cover the cost of its liner services by altering the bunker adjustment factors.

Detailed figures, Page 14

Channel blockade eased but fishing row grows

By DAVID WHITE IN PARIS

FRANCE'S STRIKING fishermen yesterday relaxed their stranglehold on cross-Channel traffic to allow stranded British tourists to be evacuated from Cherbourg.

But their gesture was an isolated one as the protest movement gathered strength in French mainland ports and the first conflicts between French authorities and fishermen's representatives failed to break the deadlock.

The fishing boat blockade at Cherbourg was lifted temporarily to permit passengers to embark. About 6,000 people and 2,000 cars were blocked in the port.

Ferries were being rushed to Cherbourg in order to get as many out as possible before the end of the truce, due at 11 am local time today.

The fishermen also lifted their blockade of Corsican ports where 3,700 people were reported stranded. But about half of France's fishing ports on both the Atlantic and Medi-

terranean coasts are now strike-bound.

About 40 ships were waiting outside Le Havre yesterday, some of them running out of provisions. Fishermen eventually agreed to take necessary supplies to the ships themselves. Some 30 vessels remained trapped inside the port.

The last remaining Channel ferry service, between Plymouth and the northern Brittany port of Roscoff, is in jeopardy with fishermen due to decide at noon today whether to seal off the harbour. But hovercraft services to and from Boulogne and Calais continued to escape the blockade.

Several Mediterranean ports settled the movement yesterday. Sete was blocked, cutting off services to North Africa, and the Lavera oil terminal near Marseilles was inaccessible.

The Boulogne fishermen's dispute, from which the movement originated, came no closer to a solution after five hours of discussion yesterday in an arbitration board meeting

in Le Havre. Neither fleet owners nor union representatives were prepared to make concessions on crew levels.

At another meeting in Caen, small fishermen continued to press for higher fuel subsidies, which the French Government has ruled out because of EEC constraints.

Arrangements for repatriating stranded British holiday-makers were working more smoothly yesterday and bottlenecks at Belgian ports were reported to have eased.

French railways have drawn up an alternative timetable for services via Ostend to replace normal Channel trains. Townsend Thoresen was running coaches between French ports and Belgium to meet the ferries there.

British Airways and Air France are offering reduced fare flights from Paris to London at FF 250 (52.40) to stranded passengers. This concession will continue until 48 hours after the end of the ports blockade.

Japan discount rate cut amid signs of faltering economy

By RICHARD C. HANSON IN TOKYO

THE Bank of Japan cautiously reversed 16 months of tight money policies yesterday by reducing the official discount rate by 1 per cent to 8.5 per cent amid signs that the economy is slowing down sooner than had been believed.

Officials, however, emphasise that the cut was meant mainly to adjust what was considered an abnormally high level for interest rates in effect since a steep 12 per cent jump in the official discount rate on March 19. It was not accompanied by any relaxation of other credit restraints, in view of lingering concern that inflation, although it appears to be slowing down, remains a serious threat.

Concern at inflation does not appear to be widely shared outside the central bank. The Government is expected to announce a stimulatory package next month concentrating on lifting present restraints on public works spending and attempting to raise business confidence.

Yesterday's decision appears intended to satisfy the growing belief here that the economy does indeed need a boost to

avoid a serious downturn later in the year.

An earlier reduction in the official discount rate was probably avoided temporarily because of the reversals suffered by the yen on the foreign exchange market this summer.

The main evidence that the economy is slowing sooner than expected comes from falling manufacturing production since April, and declining consumer spending. The former is at least partly a reaction to the large, perhaps speculative, jumps in production seen in the first quarter, while the latter can be traced to the moderate wage increases accepted by unions in the spring which helped diffuse inflationary pressures. Consumer price increases are believed to be peaking this month at a pace of over 8 per cent, but a cooling off will probably take several months.

The other major worry is that export growth—the main source of growth at present—will slow as the world economy turns sluggish.

Otherwise, the Japanese economy appears in fairly good shape. Private spending on new plant and equipment, for

example, is expected to remain healthy at least until the end of this year.

The Government began to tighten credit in April 1979 with five successive increases in the ODR, to 9 per cent in March, equaling the record level reached in 1974 after the first oil crisis. At the time of the March rise, authorities were also faced with the task of countering downward pressure on the yen resulting from spiralling interest rates in the U.S.

The private sector is likely to press for more reductions in the discount rate this year.

Jones Crosland writes: The yen was firmer in currency markets yesterday after the discount rate cut. The rise was to some extent a counter-reaction by the market, mainly because dealers had sold yen expecting a cut of 1 per cent or more. The actual reduction left some operators slightly short of the currency and helped bolster demand.

The dollar fell to Y224.40 in quiet trading, compared with a low for the day of Y234.25, and Monday's close of Y226.35. Currencies, Page 19

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Bowater

vided funds for new high technology ventures such as the INMOS micro chip project.

The closest recent case to Bowater is perhaps Dunlop, which after facing severe financial problems, is receiving £6m support from regional and selective aid schemes administered under the 1972 Industry Act.

But this is tied strictly to a series of new investment projects and so can be presented as more than simply a job-preserving lame duck operation.

Pauline Clark writes: Mr. Bill Keys, general secretary of SOGAT, reacted angrily to the Bowater decision, warning that printers were preparing to take industrial action over continuing closures of paper mills.

He said the union would "use every piece of ammunition we can muster to fight the closure."

In recent weeks he has alluded several times to the possibility of industrial action affecting national newspapers which consume imported newsprint.

He pointed out that there was no quarrel between the union and the management of Bowater. Employers and the union were united in their efforts to persuade the Government to arrest the deterioration in the British paper and board industry.

Caretaker chairman for Post Office

By JASON CRISP

SIR HENRY CHILVER, vice-chancellor of Cranfield Institute of Technology, is to become caretaker chairman of the Post Office when Sir William Barlow leaves next month.

The appointment, which will be part-time (technically, one day a week), is expected to last for about a year, until legislation is enacted to split the corporation into two separate bodies for Posts and Telecommunications.

Mr. Ron Dearing, a former civil servant, was made chairman designate on the postal side earlier this year. On September 1, Mr. George Jefferson, a director of British Aerospace, becomes chairman designate of British Telecom, as the telecommunications side is now known.

The present law requires a chairman for all of the Post Office. Sir Henry Chilver's job will be to preside over the split. He will be the main contact between the Post Office and the Department of Industry.

Sir Henry will advise on drafting of legislation and will arbitrate between the two sides of the business on any difficulties in the split.

A Bill to split the Post Office

and to relax the monopoly on both posts and telecommunications is expected to be introduced in the next parliamentary session. Sir Henry will remain chairman until the vesting day of the new corporations. His annual salary is to be £10,500.

Sir Henry, 53, is a mechanical and aeronautical engineer who also worked in civil engineering. He chaired the working party of the Government's Advisory Council on Applied Research and Development, which recommended greater use of automation and robots in British manufacturing industry.

He described his new job as "a unique role in a critical stage of the evolution of the Post Office." But he remained cautious about the Post Office's current financial problems.

One of the main reasons for Sir William Barlow's resignation was the strict application of cash limits to the corporation. That application affected investment in telecommunications and led to a sharp rise in tariffs.

Sir Henry said: "I am aware of the problems of cash limits and have discussed this with the Post Office. I would like more time to study it more deeply."

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The British Railways Board, however, urgently wants to secure further co-operation on productivity measures after its £24.2m loss in the first half of this year.

The NUR had invited ASLEF, the train drivers' union, and the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association to discussions on a range of claims, which Mr. Weighell estimated would cost £450m in

Health and safety body resists cash cuts

By Alan Pike

THE HEALTH and Safety Commission has told the Government it will not be able to carry out its full function under the law satisfactorily if it is forced to make further spending cuts.

In spite of this warning, the commission has been asked to prepare a report on the effect of further cuts of 8 per cent in addition to 6 per cent reductions which are already being imposed on its 1982-83 budget. This report is in the hands of Mr. James Prior, Employment Secretary.

The commission has told the Government that if it has to cut spending beyond 6 per cent it would obviously be necessary for the Secretary of State and his colleagues to take a considerable share of the responsibility for deciding which programmes should be cut further.

In its annual report, published yesterday, the commission says because of the 6 per cent cuts already being imposed, its staff will increase only 10 per cent compared with 1974—the year in which the Health and Safety at Work Act was introduced—instead of an envisaged 25 per cent.

The extra responsibilities falling on the service "greatly exceed 10 per cent." Since the commission believes it must provide resources to meet "new and important problems"—the nuclear installations inspectorate is being expanded—other services will have to be cut.

This will particularly hit the factory inspectorate, where inspections of smaller workplaces will become "even less frequent" than at present.

If Mr. Prior decides to impose more cuts on the commission, which could be expected to take effect in its 1984 budget, it will event further sour his relations with the trade union movement.

The TUC regards the Health and Safety at Work Act as one of the central achievements of the last government. Its representatives on the commission have opposed the current 5 per cent cuts.

BP due to begin refinery pay talks

By Nick Garnett, Labour Staff

BP IS DUE to make its first formal response today to a claim from its refinery manual workers at Grangemouth, Scotland, who are seeking rises above 20 per cent in one of the first wage negotiations of the new round.

Arrangements for repatriating stranded British holiday-makers were working more smoothly yesterday and bottlenecks at Belgian ports were reported to have eased.

French railways have drawn up an alternative timetable for services via Ostend to replace normal Channel trains. Townsend Thoresen was running coaches between French ports and Belgium to meet the ferries there.

British Airways and Air France are offering reduced fare flights from Paris to London at FF 250 (52.40) to stranded passengers. This concession will continue until 48 hours after the end of the ports blockade.

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